THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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RAIL FARES CUT BY UP TO 25% FOR AC CHAIR CAR AND EXECUTIVE CLASSES

The discount scheme will be implemented with immediate effect and shall be applicable to all trains having AC seating, including Vande Bharat

DISCOUNT TO BE BASED ON OCCUPANCY LEVELS

The scheme will be applicable in all classes based on occupancy levels, the Railways ministry said in a press release. Classes where occupancy is less than 50% during the last 30 days will be taken into consideration. While the scheme will be implemented with immediate effect, there will be no refund of fares for tickets that have already been booked | P9

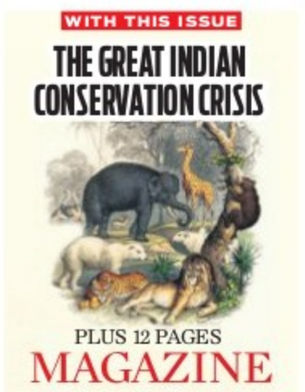
MORE POWER TO ZONAL-LEVEL MANAGERS

- The ministry will delegate powers to principal chief commercial managers of railway zones to introduce discounted fare schemes in trains with air-conditioned seatings to improve occupancy
- The scheme will be reviewed periodically, and based on changes in occupancy levels, it may be withdrawn or modified, the ministry said

21%

WAS THE JUNE OCCUPANCY LEVEL ON INDORE-BHOPAL VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI



TMC, BJP, CPM members among at least 12 killed in Bengal polls

Bombs hurled, bullets fired, people beaten up as violence mars 3-tier panchayat elections

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

AT least 12 people were killed and several others injured on Saturday, including a Trinamool Congress candidate for a gram panchayat seat and a BJP polling agent, in widespread violence as Bengal went to polls to decide who will control the state's rural landscape.

Bombs were hurled, bullets fired and rivals attacked with sticks and sharp weapons in the turf war during the three-tier panchayat elections. As many as 2.06 lakh candidates are in the fray for 73,887 seats. Polling was suspended in 1,043 of the total 61,636 booths as ballot papers and ballot boxes were snatched and either thrown into nearby pond or set ablaze.

Ballot boxes was seen set ablaze in Cooch Behar's Dinhata and a youth was spotted fleeing with one such box in the same district. The presiding officer in a booth in Birbhum's Mayureshwar was seen crying after the polling station was vandalised.

In Raninagar in Murshidabad, policemen were seen aiming guns while dispersing Trinamool supporters assembled in front of a booth.

Though the State Election Commission did not give any official toll, seven of the victims were identified as Trinamool workers who faced strong resistance from the Opposition both in north and south Bengal districts. Two BJP supporters, two CPI(M) activists and a Congress supporter were also killed in the violence. The overall toll since the rural poll was announced has gone up to 31.

Union home minister Amit Shah's office called up BJP's state president Sukanta Majumdar for a briefing. "I was asked about the violence during the panchayat elections. I will submit a written report," said Majumdar.

While the Opposition alleged that Central paramilitary forces were not properly deployed, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha said they had requisitioned 837 companies of the Central Armed Paramilitary Force (CAPF), but only 649 companies were available. Asked about bullets fired during the poll, Sinha said, "No one can guarantee when who will open fire at whom."

Joining issue with the state election body, the BSF wrote to it complaining that despite seeking data on sensitive booths, no information was shared with them.

Police personnel baton charge (from L) after a clash during panchyat elections, at Nagaria village in Malda district of Bengal; an injured security personnel in South 24 Parganas; and rival party workers clash at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district | PTI

Jain seer killed, body parts dumped into borewell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

A Jain seer, who went missing on Wednesday night from his ashram at Hirekudi village in Chikkodi taluk, was found murdered on Saturday.

Nandi Maharaj

The body of Acharya Shri Kamkumar Nandi Maharaj of Nandi Parwat Ashram was chopped into several pieces and dumped into an open borewell on the outskirts of Katakbhavi village near Raibag. Police have arrested two persons in this connection.

According to the police, the accused confessed to killing the seer and throwing his body parts into the borewell. The Katakbhavi-Mugalkhod road was closed for traffic for some time to recover the body parts.

SP Sanjeev Patil said a devotee filed a complaint on Friday stating that the seer went missing on Wednesday night.

"We launched an investigation and took two persons, who knew the seer, into custody. The duo confessed to killing the seer at the ashram and throwing his body parts into the borewell. The accused stated that they killed the seer because he started forcing them to return the money they had borrowed from him," he said. P5

EXPRESS READ

Restaurants in Bengaluru to run 24/7 soon

Bengaluru: To boost the image of Bengaluru under the ambitious Brand Bengaluru initiative, hotels and restaurants in the tech-capital will be open round-the-clock within a week. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who held a meeting with Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association members on Saturday, gave his approval to their long-pending demand. P2

EXPRESS INTAKE Probe into Nadda's poll violation stayed | P5 | 83 from K'taka stranded in Amarnath | P5

Madhya Pradesh village takes bridge to new life

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

IF any place can remotely resemble a utopian society, Raibidpura, perhaps would come close. The villagers live in harmony and for the last few years they have hardly witnessed any crime. They sow crops that are non-conventional. Slowly their village is getting recognition as well. Not for their cultivation but for the sport they passionately follow, and the sport they believe has moulded their society. Now, two of their girls — Kalpana Gurjar and Vidya Patel — are set to represent India at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. MORE ON: P13

Kalpana Gurjar and Vidya Patel with their parents | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DFRL's desi foods for Indian astronauts bound for ISS

BK LAKSHMIKANTHA @Mysuru

THE Mysuru-based Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) has developed desi foods for four Indian astronauts who are likely to travel to International Space Station (ISS) on a joint India-US mission in 2024.

DFRL has developed sooji halwa, vegetable biryani, chicken biryani, parota, sambar chawal, veg katti roll, chicken katti roll, chikki, chicken pulav, ready to drink tea/coffee, lemon juice, processed nuts, moong dal halwa, potable water and saline for the astronauts.

The four astronauts, who are IAF pilots, have been trained by Russian space agency ROSCOMSO for the first ISRO's manned mission to space, Gaganyaan. They are likely to be trained by US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and travel to ISS before Gaganyaan.

According to DFRL scientists, the space foods developed by them are lightweight, low-volume, easy-to-consume, low-fragmentation and whosesome.

DFRL technical officer Mahesh said the space foods contain more nutrients, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. They contain less spices, salt and fat. They are easy to digest and will be in paste and semi-solid and come in special packets. He said they have a shelf-life of one year.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 09/07/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Grishma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Sapthami 1.07 am • Nakshatra: Uttharabhadra 1.01 am • Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Passing showers. Overcast.

Sunrise 5.59 am
Sunset 6.50 pm
Moonrise 11.58 pm
Moonset 11.38 am

From the farms of Dakshina Kannada, 'ole bella' is the needed sweetener thanks to its nutritious properties

A PALM THAT READS 'BETTER HEALTH'

Jaggery-making process

SONIA SALI @ Bengaluru

Swaying gaily in hot and humid coastal Karnataka are the tall, single-stemmed, evergreen palmyra trees, known for their fruit and sap. While the fruit, commonly called 'ice apple', is a favourite, little is known about the sap. It's in this sap that the secret to a healthier life rests.

For decades, Bantwal taluk in Dakshina Kannada has seen purpose in switching from sugarcane jaggery to a healthier option, taking the 'Ole Bella' route. The concept of 'ole bella' or palm jaggery goes back ages, though its health benefits have slowly started gaining credence today.

Anand Salian, an agriculturalist from Bantwal, has been producing ole bella for 21 years, following in his father's footsteps. But over the years, the tradition is being forgotten. "Most youngsters in our village aren't interested in making jaggery, opting for city jobs. Our village now has just four of us who continue the ole bella tradition," says Salian, adding that the procedure is long and strenuous, making the younger generation unenthused.

Rising early in the morning, Anand and his fellow tappers set out to extract the sweet sap from palmyra trees. The sap is collected in earthen pots, which are varnished with slaked lime to ensure their content does not ferment. Once the juice is collected, it is filtered and boiled in large aluminium vessels for 5-6 hours. When the sap begins to thicken, a tinge of coconut oil is added. Meanwhile, the tappers prepare for the final procedure. Laying a wet cloth or mat on the floor, half-an-inch round moulds – also made from palmyra leaves – are spread out. The liquid is then poured into these moulds, and left to dry which thicken for 20 minutes. After that 24 of these pieces of jaggery are tied together with palm leaves.

Umesh Neralpalke, another farmer, says that despite the long process, the demand for palm jaggery has been increasing across the country. "People now prefer ole bella to sugarcane jaggery, owing to its medicinal benefits and organic content," he says.

The jaggery that is made by small farmers like Salian and Neralpalke is pure and free from preservatives. Owing to its purity, ole bella also costs higher than sugarcane jaggery. A pack of 24 ole bella pieces is sold at Rs 1,500-2,000.

This homemade product is sold directly to people who place orders in Belthangady, Kaup, Mangaluru, Udupi, and other parts of Dakshina Kannada. Salian and Neralpalke also receive orders from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Dubai. "Customers personally reach out to us with orders and we courier the jaggery," says Salian. While big markets in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru sell palm jaggery, farmers in Dakshina Kannada claim that store-bought palm jaggery is filled with chemicals to increase shelf life (ole bella cannot be stored for more than one month without preservatives).

Babu Poojary, the owner of Swarna Shop in Bantwal, sells ole bella. He runs a wholesale shop, collecting ole bella from farmers. Once ole bella is brought to the shop, it must be kept on hearths to keep it warm. Poojary says that when he constructed his shop 38 years ago, he built a hearth to stack ole bella. It is sold in packs of 24 and not separately. However, he sometimes does sell a single piece for Rs 100 to the sick, who cannot afford the entire pack. At other times, there are people who directly approach farmers to buy the jaggery. Salian says pharmacies in Dakshina Kannada directly approach him to buy ole bella for their customers.

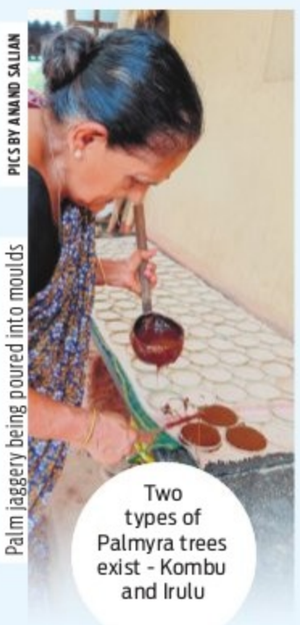
The locals know best

Residents of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada are active consumers of ole bella. Archana, a resident of Moodbidri, says her family has been using it for years. "We have always used it in our diet. Diabetics can use it as a healthy alternative to sugar, as it does not spike blood sugar levels. When I prepare sweet delicacies for my 90-year-old mother, ole bella always comes in handy," says Archana, who is the HoD of the Food and Nutrition Department at Alva's Degree College. She affirms that the jaggery acts as an immunity booster too. "Post-Covid, people faced a massive blow in terms of immunity. A little bit of ole bella in the diet helps," she concludes.

HEALTH SECRETS

Experts opine that unlike other jaggeries, palm jaggery is loaded with nutrients like iron, folate, calcium, potassium and magnesium. Dietician Radhika Pratip Dhar notes that palm jaggery helps alleviate anaemia by raising haemoglobin levels. It also has a low glycaemic index, making it useful for diabetic and renal patients. The potassium content boosts heart health and relieves period cramps; and the magnesium aids the central nervous system. It also helps address constipation, indigestion and water retention in the body. Moreover, a little bit of palm jaggery also protects pregnant women from anaemia.

PICS BY ANAND SALIAN



Palm jaggery being poured into moulds

TREE TRIVIA

Two types of Palmyra trees exist - Kombu and Irulu

Kombu is the male tree that produces sap

Irulu is the female tree that bears the fruit

Thesap collected between September and April

A farmer climbs a palm tree to collect palm sap

1. Acts as an antioxidant and protects against cancer
2. Regular intake enhances gut health
3. Cures cough, cold and respiratory issues
4. Cleanses and detoxifies the body
5. Has 60 times more minerals than sugarcane jaggery
6. A natural sweetener free from artificial additives

Thrown out of home, 22-year-old Sanam Haji transitioned from boy to transwoman and is now a successful vendor

Finding her identity

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

From being ridiculed, beaten up and thrown out of the house to being forced to beg or do sex work to earn her livelihood, the story of 22-year-old Sanam Haji — a successful vegetable vendor from Bagalkot, North Karnataka, with a daily turnover of around Rs 6,000 — is extremely heartening and encouraging for people at the crossroads of gender orientation and identity. "My vision is to open a big department store for vegetables and fresh fruits in Bagalkot. People who had shunned, abused and kicked my food with their feet now address me with respect. I have an identity in my city," she said.

Sanam is a transwoman. Born Hyder Ali in a respectable family in Bagalkot, she realised she had very strong feminine traits when she entered puberty. "I told my mother first that I felt like a girl and loved to dress like one. She was shocked and threatened to throw me out of the house. Later, as the word spread in the family, they tried every way to 'correct' me. They even blackmailed me to get engaged to a girl, saying this would fulfil my mother's wish. She was a cancer patient. I rebelled the day my family got me engaged because I didn't want to ruin an innocent girl's life," Sanam told TNIE on the sidelines of an international symposium 'Gyan', organised by Best Practices Foundation (BPF), Solidarity Foundation and Sangama, for gender and sexual minorities (GSM) community in the city on Tuesday.

"I began to beg and do sex work to earn my livelihood. I hated myself for it but had no choice. It was then that I met Sameer Karajgi from 'Milan Sangha', a community-based organisation. He counselled and helped a lot in making me understand my sexual orientation," said Sanam.

"Hyder came to me when he was 13-14 years old, and I told him to concentrate on his education. But the more society resisted his trans-identity, the more he rebelled. He began dressing up like a woman, applying mehendi, wearing bangles etc. Hyder soon turned into Sanam. She has earned respect for herself," said Sameer.

Thanks to an entrepreneurial training programme -- Market Oriented Livelihood Enhancement(MOVE) by BPF – Sanam soon learnt the ropes and turned into a vegetable vendor. "After doing MOVE, I stopped begging and sex work. Now, the Nagar Sabha has given me a shop to sell vegetables. The respect and love I get from society has changed my life," said Sanam. Her family has accepted her back and she now lives in a joint family in Navanagar.

"A new study on transgender community has revealed gross inequalities," said BPF Executive Director Sangeetha Purushothaman. The study by BPF -- a Bengaluru-based non-profit organisation – was carried out across 17 districts in Karnataka to measure the capital possessed by the GSM community, and their overall well-being. "Research revealed that the community faced severely restricted access to physical, natural and financial capital, and a low quality of life. Conditions that have worsened after the pandemic," she added.

BPF, in association with Solidarity Foundation and Sangama, helps such vulnerable communities become self-reliant and achieve their economic potential to live a dignified life.

I met Sameer Karajgi from 'Milan Sangha', a community-based organisation. He counselled and helped a lot in making me understand my sexual orientation

— Sanam Haji

Sanam Haji is now a successful vegetable vendor with a daily turnover of Rs 6,000

Doreswamy seeks extra grants for govt schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

PROF M R Doreswamy, Advisor to the Government of Karnataka on Educational Reforms, on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah apprising him of the need for basic infrastructure in government schools across the state. He urged the CM to ensure safe drinking water, clean classrooms, compounds and toilets.

Noting that there is a need for 30,000- 48,000 schools, he said the budget allocated Rs 550 crore for construction of 8,311 classrooms in schools and college classrooms, Rs 200 crore for new toilet complexes and Rs 2 crore for establishment of innovation labs in pre- university colleges, which are not enough.

He said there is still time to do justice for a fundamental issue like school education. The CM should allocate additional grants commensurate with the need of the situation, he added.

Green signal soon for city restaurants to run round-the-clock

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

HOTELS and restaurants in Namma Bengaluru will be open round-the-clock within a week. The aim of this is to boost the image of the tech-capital under the ambitious Brand Bengaluru initiative.

The demand to keep hotels and restaurants open 24x7 was a long-pending one by the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association. While it was agreed upon by the state governments in the past, no firm commitment was made because of security reasons.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who held a meeting with the association members on Saturday, gave his approval to their proposal.

PC Rao, association president, told TNSE, "We met the DyCM and submitted a proposal to keep hotels and restaurants open round-the-clock in the city. Shivakumar listened to our demands and responded positively." "If everything goes well, an order allowing hotels and restaurants to be open round-the-clock might be issued within a week or 10 days," the association members said.

Respresentatives of Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association meet Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday

There are over 24,000 small and big hotels in Bengaluru, 10% of them are ready to operate 24x7. This apart, many are keen on opening new hotels and restaurants only during night hours, Rao said.

On the opposition from police to keep hotels open after 10 pm, Rao said, "Shivakumar feels that our demand will help employees working night shifts, auto and cab drivers, and others. It will complement the Brand Bengaluru initiative".

The association members also urged Shivakumar to take steps to accord "industrial status" to the hotel sector. Instead of multiple licenses such as trade, and Food and Safety Standards Authority of India, the hotels should be allowed to run on one license.

EXPRESS READ

BMTC starts issuing student passes

BMTC has started issuing student bus passes for 2023-24 at concessional rates. Students can get the passes online from Seva Sindu portal (https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in) or BMTC website (https://mybmtc.karnataka.gov.in). Passes can also be availed from the Kempegowda bus stand, Anekal bus stand, Kengeri TTMC, Shanthinagar TTMC, Hosakote depot and Electronics City depot. **ENS**

BUDGET MAKES NO BIG DIFFERENCE TO BENGALURU

SRINIVAS ALAVILLI
Citizen Activist

WHEN a state budget does not have allocations exclusively for Bengaluru, that's a positive sign. The combined budget of BBMP, BMTC, BWSSB, BESCOM and other utilities should be considered as a comprehensive one for Bengaluru.

Unlike Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, BBMP has limited powers and financial resources, which I believe, is the root cause of many gaps in governance in our city. Brand Bengaluru seems to be addressing that gap. But there is no clarity on that in this budget other than the good intent expressed.

BMTC seems to be the big winner in this budget. It has been Bengaluru's lifeline for decades, but always under financial stress. Successive governments ignored the needs of the corporation while pumping thousands of crores into metro and road projects. Thanks to Shakti, the daily ridership of BMTC has gone up from 30 lakhs a day to 40 lakhs within weeks of the scheme's launch. The budget acknowledged this positive development by allocating Rs 4,000 crore (to all RTCs, not just BMTC). A significant portion should come to BMTC which will allow it to add more buses, address staffing issues and improve the quality of service. I welcome the announcement of five new women's police stations. It will not only help women have easy access to police but also improve law and order situation in our city. Women constitute more than 50% of our population. But that is not reflected in our police force.

PRR is much-delayed and much-needed road infrastructure for our ever growing city. The budget expresses interest in completing the project, but we have to wait for the signs of revival. It is not clear why we are investing heavily in older STPs when urban India seems to be moving towards a more decentralised approach for sewage management. Whether it is solid waste or liquid waste, cities can no longer manage the load unless services are decentralised at the ward level.

Only Byapannahalli flyover finds mention, which is much needed. Our city invested in flyovers for decades and the time now is to redouble our investment and commitment to public transport, bus, metro and suburban train – all of these have been given priority in this budget.

Road Safety is a serious issue in our city as official records show a pedestrian death every two days. There seems to be an acknowledgement of work needed in this regard with an allocation of Rs 450 crore.

With Rs 800 crore earmarked for white topping of roads, it seems the government believes pothole free asphalt roads are not possible in our city. Experts find white topping roads to be problematic from an environmental perspective. But the net cost of potholes must have been the consideration here.

The budget does not make a major difference to Bengaluru as the focus is finding money for new schemes.

As many as 33 couples were reunited during the Lok Adalat organised by the District Legal Service Authority at all its courts in the district on Saturday. Speaking to media persons after distributing sweets to the reunited couples at the family court hall in Malalavadi, Principal District and Sessions Court Judge G S Sangreshi said out of 87 cases taken for reconciliation, advocates and judges could manage to reunite 33 couples through mediation and counselling

Constable files rape plaint against colleague

She alleges he went back on promise of marrying her, police also book him for causing miscarriage, cheating

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 28-year-old woman police constable filed a rape complaint against her colleague, who allegedly raped her on a false promise of marrying her.

The accused is also alleged to have forced the woman to take abortion pills to terminate her pregnancy. She filed the complaint at a police station attached to the South East Division on Thursday, after the man went incommunicado. The duo earlier worked at the same traffic police station in the South East Traffic Subdivision.

The accused police constable, aged around 30, and the woman, staying off Hosur main road, are said to have been in a relationship since 2018. She complained that the accused first raped her while she was alone at her house in June 2018, and he later promised to marry her after talking to his parents. He then continued the physical relationship by taking her to different hotels on the false promise of marriage. When she was impregnated, he is alleged to have given her abortion pills. But, as she developed complications, the accused is said to have taken her to a hospital in Doddakammanahalli and got her treated, claiming that she was his wife.

"The accused then started avoiding her, saying his parents had not agreed to let him marry her. On June 16, the woman called his parents to discuss the wedding, but no one answered the phone. Later, the accused met her and allegedly abused and beat her with a lathi. The complainant got treated at a hospital in Bommasandra," said an investigating officer, quoting the woman's complaint.

The accused is said to have gone incommunicado since June 28. "The accused constable has been absent from duty, which amounts to unauthorised absence, much before the woman filed the police complaint. Search is on for the accused," the officer added.

A case of rape, causing miscarriage, cheating along with other sections of the Indian Penal Code have been registered against the accused police constable.

EX-CJ'S SON IN SOUP

In-house corruption at Lokayukta: Special court won't stop trial

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE special court refused to stop the trial against accused Ashwin Yarabati, son of former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court and former Lokayukta Y Bhaskar Rao in connection with three separate cases registered over infamous in-house corruption in the Karnataka Lokayukta.

In all these cases, both Ashwin and his father Bhaskar Rao and the then Lokayukta institution's Public Relations Officer Syed Riyazathulla have been charge-sheeted along with other accused.

Ashwin filed a memo in two cases and another memo was filed by Riyaz seeking to stop the trial, for now, citing the recent verdict of the Karnataka High Court which held that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) which probed the 2015 in-house corruption in Lokayukta had no authority to file the chargesheet as it has not declared as a police station as required under Section 173(2) of CrPC.

While setting aside the cognisance of the offences taken by the trial court, the single judge of the high court on May 26, 2023, said the chargesheet filed against the accused deserves to be returned reserving liberty to the superintendent of police, Lokayukta, Bengaluru City Division, to submit the final report in three months.

Considering the seriousness of the case and the protracted proceedings, the high court had also said the trial court should endeavour to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible which should not exceed one year from the date of filing of the chargesheet.

Citing this as a ground in the memo filed before the special court, Ashwin and Riyaz also quoted the 2021 judgement of the high court which held that the CCB is not declared as a police station to file a chargesheet.

The Special Public Prosecutor (SPP), representing the Lokayukta, contended that the January 2021 verdict was stayed by the Supreme Court in March 2021 after hearing the special leave petition (SLP) filed by the state government. Also, the state government is interested in filing an SLP before the Supreme Court against the high court verdict.

As such, the cases before the special court cannot be closed. Further, the accused have not challenged the order about taking cognisance of the offences and framing of charges before the high court. They cannot make use of the order passed in connection with some other case. In this case, the majority of witnesses have already been examined and the trial is in the fag end with the trial over to the extent of 80 percent, the SPP argued.

Rejecting the memos, Judge Mohan H A, 32nd Additional City Civil and Sessions Court, noted that this court could proceed further to conclude the trial as there is no bar to proceed further in the matter for recording of the witnesses, subject to the result of the pending SLP before the Supreme Court and also in the proposed SLP to be filed by the state.

With 4% for health sector, only limited progress can be made

THE healthcare budget continued to remain in the 4 per cent proportion of the total budget. With Rs 14,950 crore allocated this year as well, only limited progress can be expected in the state. Unless Karnataka increases the allocation for healthcare, the sector will not show any significant progress. Efforts towards investing in improving health services at district and taluk level are appreciative, but the funds earmarked are grossly inadequate.

AKHILA VASAN
Public Health Researcher/Activist
Karnataka Janaarogya Chaluvali

For instance, only Rs 25 crore has been allocated for the anaemia and malnutrition prevention campaign. Approximately, Rs 200 crore has been dedicated for the upgradation of public health centres, establishing CT and MRI centres, TB screening and medical camps. The entire remaining budget will be used to improve medical infrastructure and tertiary care services.

A major problem that continues to plague the healthcare system is the unavailability of medicines across health centres at all times. Karnataka must take a cue from neighbouring states, like Tamil Nadu that has well-functioning systems.

The public-private partnership model being promoted must be completely scrapped. The four percent allocation should be solely invested in the government's own health system instead of the PPP model.

A serious deficit of human resources was one major issue that was not addressed in the budget. There are a large number of vacancies in the health department which remain unfilled for years. Despite contractual workers going on strike for almost three months, their demands remain unaddressed in the budget. Lastly, the government must focus on 'urban health'.

A large proportion of the marginalised population in urban areas depends on private providers, who continue to put the burden of out-of-pocket expenses. Even the Namma Clinics launched this year were a hogwash. Instead, the already present BBMP facilities should have been strengthened.

STUDY TIME

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy and Primary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa distribute free note books and bags among government school students in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Biz rivalry behind caterer killing, 3 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PEENYA police arrested three persons in Hassan in connection with the murder of a 33-year-old caterer, whose half-charred body was found at an isolated place in Peenya police station limits on July 2 on his wedding anniversary.

The victim, Anand, was a native of Tamil Nadu, who was staying with his wife in Heggananahalli. The accused have been identified as Satish, Putta and Dayananda.

Anand and the prime accused, Satish, were in the catering business. Anand later set up his own business which resulted in Satish losing his contacts.

Envious of Anand's success, Satish hatched a plot to kill him and took the help of Putta and Dayananda. "Last Saturday, Satish asked Anand to throw a party on his wedding anniversary. The accused then prepared some food at Anand's house and took it to Channanayakanapalya. They also bought liquor and went to an isolated place. Satish kicked Anand's private parts and bludgeoned him to death. The trio then doused the body in petrol and set it ablaze. The body was found Sunday morning around 6.45," said an officer.

After the murder, the trio went to Bagalagunte area as they had a cooking order. They switched off their mobile phones and escaped to Hassan after the news of Anand's murder flashed in the media.

Anand's wife who had landed at the Satellite bus stand on Mysuru Road Sunday from Tamil Nadu tried calling her husband, but it went unanswered. His wife filed a missing complaint with the Rajagopala Nagar police station and later identified his body, which was recovered from a bush in Channanayakanapalya.

HEALTH MINISTER ASKS 108 STAFF NOT TO GO ON STRIKE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday urged 108 ambulance personnel not to go on strike as he has released the first instalment of arrears and promised to clear the remaining dues soon.

Close to 4,000 employees, including ambulance drivers and emergency medical technicians (paramedical staff), across the state have been meeting medical emergencies without being paid for four months now. In June, the Karnataka State Health Cover (108) Employees Association had raised concerns over non-payment of salaries and requested the government to clear the dues till July 8 or they will go on a strike.

The minister will also hold a meeting with the 108 staff on Monday to resolve the issue of salary arrears and further discuss their grievances and demands along with other department officials. Gundu Rao said the lapses in the contracts of 108 ambulances during the previous government has resulted in problems in clearance of salaries. In a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, it was decided to take appropriate action so that the staff is not affected any more.

In total, Rs 40 crore worth of funds are to be paid to GVK-EMRI, the company handling 108 ambulance services in Karnataka. The first instalment of Rs 14 crore was released on Saturday and the remaining is expected to be cleared soon.

No action against building on lake bund: Activists

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

DAYS after dumping plastic waste into the Vibhutipura Lake, in all alleged brazenness, a house is being constructed within the lake area, with officials reportedly turning a blind eye.

Lake activists allege that when the matter was reported to the lake engineer, the BBMP demolished some structures during its encroachment removal drive.

It is learnt that a person identified as Sunitha and her husband, Alex, have built a structure that has reached lintel level with pillars, which came up by allegedly breaking a fence and breaching the buffer zone.

A view of the illegal structure being constructed in the Vibhutipura Lake area in Bengaluru

Last week, the residents and activists, along with Vibhuthipura Kere Kshema Abhivridhi Sangha, held a protest inside the lake area, urging the authorities to immediately raze the illegal structure.

"Initially, when we complained to the concerned lake official from Mahadevpura Zone, he responded by saying 'let them build'. The official further stated that the BBMP is anyway going ahead with its encroachment removal drive and will remove the building that has come up in the lake," mentioned a volunteer from the sangha.

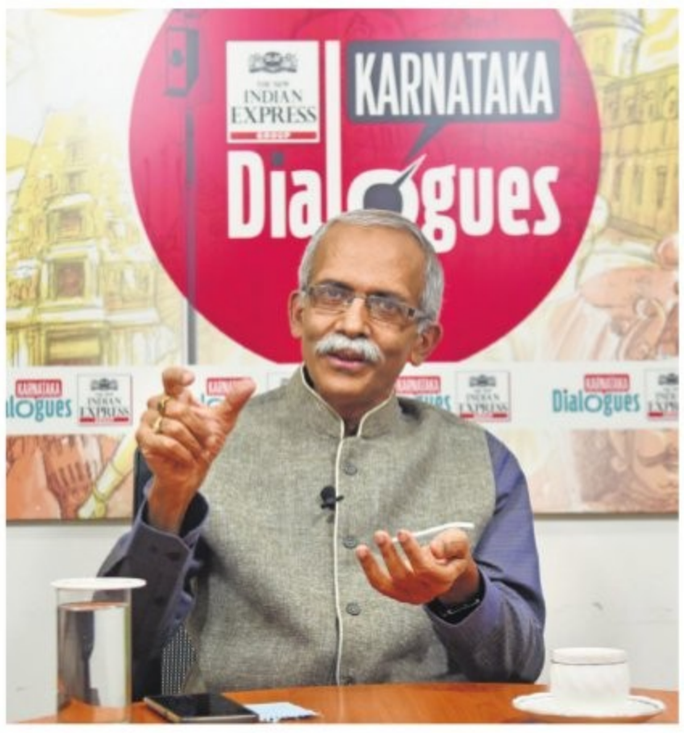
Chief Engineer Vijaykumar Haridas said he was not aware of the development and added that he will ask the concerned engineer to take corrective measures and remove the encroachment from the lake.

It is said that the Palike served a notice under Section 248 (1) of the BBMP Act, 2020, to stop the construction, very recently.

> **Initially, when we complained to the concerned lake official from Mahadevpura Zone, he responded by saying 'let them build'. The official further stated that the BBMP is anyway going ahead with its encroachment removal drive**
>
> A volunteer, Vibhuthipura Kere Kshema Abhivridhi Sangha

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will not attend any events on Sunday, as he is suffering from cough and cold. Standing for over three hours to present the budget might have caused the sickness, his supporters said. He was running a mild temperature with symptoms of cough and cold. He took part in two programmes on Saturday, but thereafter complained of tiredness and cancelled the rest of the engagements

'POST OFFICES HAVE NEVER BECOME REDUNDANT, WE'VE ALWAYS EVOLVED'



THE sheer joy of the postman delivering a letter from a friend is today replaced by the ping of a Whatsapp message. In this era of instant messaging, has snail mail become redundant? Not at all, says Chief Post Master General **S Rajendra Kumar**. "Our service industry has evolved and kept pace with the changing requirements of the public," he tells The New Sunday Express in a freewheeling chat.

How have post offices changed with the advent of technology? Post Offices used to be the lifeline of the country. With technological advancements evolving so much, how have they managed to stay relevant?

Interestingly, post offices have always adapted themselves to the latest technology. The modern post office came into being in 1954. It was entirely a manual system. The telegraph systems were being implemented, and a telegraph line was laid between Europe and India. Then when the telephones entered, we adapted ourselves and we were called the Postal and Telecommunications Department that time. Of course, postal services are basically transportation from one place to another. When we started off, it was bullock carts and horse carts. You know even before we started using motorised vehicles, we had taken to flight. Interestingly, India Post is the first postal administration anywhere in the world to use aircraft for transportation of mail. It was adapted in 1912 in Allahabad (Pragyaraj).

The post office has a tradition of being at the forefront of technology. When it comes to the IT revolution, the post office was among the first organisations to introduce computers in the early 1990s. A post office counters used to have a PC in the early 90s.

We have had an integrated computerised network since 2012. When it comes to postal transmission itself, personal communications have almost vanished. Even if they are there, they are more like ceremonial communications.

Another major change is that from the monopoly we enjoyed till the early 90s, it has now become a very competitive environment with multiple service providers. Post offices have been affected to some extent, but we always have had the knack of converting threats into opportunities. We have collaborated with all our competitors as none of them have such a big network all over the country. We have tie-ups with major e-commerce people like Amazon and Myntra. This is an expanding market and the latest trend is of our customers not willing to step out for many of their necessities. We have start-ups that provide online booking facilities. One such, Kovil, provides booking facility for any courier you want. We have already registered with that. If you have picked up Speed Post, the delivery comes to the nearest post office and you can pick it up.

There has been a drastic decline in the number of letters sent by the public with the advent of emails and other new technologies...

When it comes to personal letters, it is also the ability of a person to express himself or herself. I think psychologists will agree that a growing child needs to be able to express herself. Letters are a great way to do that. So, we do try to propagate the art of writing though the Postal Week competitions. But these are all ceremonial and there needs to be more institutional intervention once every two to three months of different age groups until the age of 18. The letter writing competition is held every March and the good news for Karnataka is that the first and third places nationally have been secured by students from here. We are finding ways to encourage letter writing.

What are the new postal savings schemes you have launched?

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate. We first introduced it on April 1 this year and banks were supposed to introduce them too. But only the POS have them now. This is a scheme exclusively for women with a maximum deposit permitted being Rs 2 lakh and it will earn a compound interest. We already have interesting and popular schemes, one of which is the Kanya Samriddhi introduced in 2014, in which a girl child from 10 years old is eligible. But I always recommend the Public Provident Fund due to the power of compound interest. It is a 15-year fund, but it can always be extended by five more years. By the time the child grows up, a substantial corpus will be built. One can invest up to Rs 1.5 lakh in this account which gets compounded. This is the best scheme for students.

Tell us more about the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) account as the awareness about it is very less.

IPPB is a public sector bank promoted by the Postal Department and it has been in existence since 2017. Its growth has been phenomenal. In the last six years, IPPB has got a depositor base of six crore. There is no other bank which has grown so fast. It is a completely digital account and you don't need any paper. It has got doorstep services. Apart from the savings account, we now have a gamut of financial service products. Apart from savings and life insurance, post offices did not have medical insurance, accident insurance or other services but now we offer them through third party tie-ups. For instance, we have a tie-up with TATA AIG, Bajaj Life to offer all other financial services.

You can use your bank as your savings account and can also use the IPPB as your expenditure account. Whatever your expenses, you can transfer that to IPPB and settle all your payments through it now. You can link your GPay if you like to your IPPB account. That way you will not expose your bank account.

What about the ease of your Recurring Deposit Schemes?

We now have electronic fund transfer and interoperability with all banks. A good feature of the Post Office Savings Bank is that you have a single IFSC code for the entire Postal network unlike banks where each branch has a different code. For us, it is IPOS0000DOP. Similar is the case of IPPB IPOS0000001. This is something unique about POs.

Recruitments are still going on which is good. However, we had a personal connection with the Postman earlier. We do not see that anymore. How are you working on it.

The post office thrives on inter-person connection. The workforce has come down drastically, by at least 40%. It has sort of stabilised now. The nature of work has changed completely. Though the letter delivery has come down, the postman also carries the financial services instruments with him. Retired persons want a lifetime certificate for their pensions which we do at their doorsteps now. Passport Seva Kendras, Aadhaar centres and every type of citizen service we are trying to provide. From January to April, we have delivered 40 lakh EPIC cards. We have an Aadhaar-based seeding drive on now. The postman is more of a teacher in financial literacy to the public rather than a letter deliverer.

What is the status of post boxes?

If we find there are not enough letters posted in a letter box and decide to withdraw it, we immediately get a letter asking us why it was withdrawn. It is not so easy to withdraw a post box. It is viewed as a prestige symbol. There are a few post boxes with heritage value like the one at West End or at Indian Institute of Science.

You spoke about a decline in the workforce by 40%...

That is over a period of time. When I started my service, there were 6 lakh postal employees across the country, now it is around 4.5 lakh. This has happened over the last 30 years. This year, there is a major thrust towards filling up all our vacancies. In the South, particularly, there is a problem of attrition. There is a target that by the end of this year, we will not have any staff shortage.

To verify addresses, courier companies used to rely on Post Offices. Is it still being done?

The pin code is required for any online transaction too to assess if a service is available in a particular area. We have realised that a lot of wrong boundaries too have been marked. We have taken up a project with Google for getting authentic pin code boundaries. Some cities have been covered with Bengaluru being done. By the end of this year the project will be completed. There are 19,000 pin codes in India. We are next working on a digital address system with a unique identity and geo boundaries.

Going forward, where do you see POs in the next decade?

We have always been relevant. We are transforming ourselves into a service delivery organisation. With the advent of IT, the service industry has grown exponentially. There will be no end to the service industry.

The dynamics behind BJP-JDS bonhomie

AFTER a bitter fight in the May 10 polls, Karnataka politics is witnessing a newfound bonhomie between the BJP and JDS. They are playing complementary roles to each other to take on the Congress, which came to power with a convincing mandate and hopes to continue its winning streak in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The developments, both within the ongoing State Legislature session and outside, indicate that the first aim of the opposition is to corner the Siddaramaiah government, not allow it to settle down without any hassles and set a narrative that the much-talked-about guarantees are a failure.

This was evident when senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa openly backed JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy's "cash for posting" and other corruption allegations against the Siddaramaiah government. Even inside the Assembly, the top leaders from both parties were assisting each other to put the government on the mat.

While the government has rubbished the corruption allegations and Kumaraswamy is yet to substantiate his charges, the JDS leader seems to be more aggressive in his fight against the government. That is working well as the BJP is taking an unusually long time to appoint Leaders of Opposition in the Assembly and Council. Perhaps, this is the first time the assembly session started without a Leader of the Opposition. In contrast, Congress managed to resolve leadership issues and ministry expansion in one stroke without much difficulty and now set its sights firmly on the Lok Sabha polls.

Although it is too early to judge the government's performance and the Congress' ability to sustain its winning momentum in Karnataka, they feel they found a formula to defeat BJP. That confidence in the Congress camp is visible. But, the coming together of the Opposition parties — BJP and JDS — indicates that it is not going to be a hassle-free tenure for the government, or the party which is aiming to replicate its assembly victory at the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Congress' entire gameplan to win 20-plus Lok Sabha seats (of the total 28 in Karnataka) depends on how its government will implement the much-talked-about guarantee schemes announced in the run-up to the assembly polls.

The Opposition seems to be determined to derail the government's plans to push Congress on the defensive as that is the only way they can have a good chance of thwarting Congress.

The bonhomie between BJP and JDS even fuelled speculation about them joining hands. But that seems unlikely as an open pact may not help both parties and result in minorities solidly backing Congress. But there is also a view that minorities are lock-stock-and-barrel behind the Congress, which they see as a party that can take on the BJP. Despite its best efforts, the JDS failed to woo minorities in the assembly polls.

It is too early to say how BJP and JDS will work together in the face of a formidable Congress. What is clear now is that they will not go for mutual destruction, considering Congress as the common opponent.

The JDS leaders attending the new Parliament building inauguration and its decision to stay away from Opposition leaders' meeting to discuss strategies to take on BJP in the LS polls are all clear indicators that the regional party's priority is to fight Congress in Karnataka before thinking of grand plans to take on PM Narendra Modi. For JDS, Congress is a major threat in Old Mysuru, its home turf. Congress' top leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar come from the same region.

While JDS may be fighting to retain its base in Old Mysuru, the BJP faces a much bigger task of retaining 25 out of 28 LS seats it won in 2019. A lot has changed in state politics since the last LS polls making the BJP's task all the more difficult. The party seems to be again relying on its Lingayat strongman Yediyurappa to deliver the state. Like in the 2019 LS polls, he is expected to play a major role in coordination with other state leaders.

While implementing the announcements made in the budget will be a challenge for the government over the next few months, the state may also witness a competition between the two opposition parties to take on the government, making its job difficult.

Speculation rife as Putthila meets Santhosh

He (Arunkumar Putthila) is a Brahmin and if the party has to accommodate him, then it has to sacrifice any one of the three Brahmin sitting MPs in the state which is not an easy thing

A BJP leader, on condition of anonymity

ENS @ Mangaluru

HINDUTVA leader **Arunkumar Putthila** meeting BJP's national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh in New Delhi recently has led to speculation that the saffron party might offer him something big going into the 2024 general election.

Sources said Putthila and four others close to him met Santhosh on the latter's invitation. Santhosh is said to have given a patient hearing to Putthila and promised to address all his concerns. During the discussion, Putthila's followers are said to have indicated to Santhosh their desire to see Putthila as the next Lok Sabha MP from Dakshina Kannada, in order to aggressively fight for the cause of Hindutva, which they feel has suffered a lot under the current BJP leadership.

They are also hopeful that the BJP will not afford to ignore him again as any setback to the party in the region may send out a bad message. A BJP leader, who did not wish to be named, said that at this stage it is difficult to predict whether Putthila's 'pressure tactics' will bear fruit. "He is a Brahmin and if the party has to accommodate him, then it has to sacrifice any one of the three Brahmin sitting MPs in the state which is not an easy thing," he said.

Because of surplus, Centre's funds, Siddu can ensure guarantees: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"POST-Covid, a lot of effort has been put in to bring the finances of the state back on rails. That is why we could present a surplus budget and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could accommodate his guarantee programmes. If there was a deficit, he would have struggled. Though Siddaramaiah presented his 14th budget, his maturity is not seen in this budget. He has misrepresented facts and blamed the previous government and Centre. The central government has increased GSDP from Rs 18,85,000 to Rs 25 lakh crore. This is the reason he has been able to borrow money keeping the fiscal discipline in mind, said former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, reacting to Siddaramaiah's budget which was presented on Friday.

While the chief minister criticised the devolution of funds, there are two routes through which the funds are made available. One is the Single Nodal Account and the other is through the centrally sponsored schemes. CM Siddaramaiah has cleverly not discussed it, he said.

The Centre invests huge amounts through PM Gati Shakti, PLI and special assistance to states. Also, funds come for National Highways, Railways and others. "Without the help of the Centre, we could not have achieved this growth rate," he said.

"The state GSDP has grown 11% year-on-year. Last year, we achieved 100% capital expenditure, which has increased over 72% as of January 2023. This is the highest capital expenditure in the past 10 years. State revenues registered an increase of 17% year-on-year. There is an overall increase in growth in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors which shows the excellence in finance management. We kept the fiscal deficit below 3%. But Congress has used a wrong comparison. The effect of the pandemic was around for three years and it took just one-and-a-half years for recovery and it is remarkable in the country which the CM has failed to see," Bommai said.

"The government has lost the vision and is trying to fulfill only the five guarantees, as if only these will bring in growth. Because of this, the development which was fast-paced has taken a hit, while the allocation for education, health, RDPR and water resources has been reduced. The problem of regional imbalance will continue," he further stated.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Karnataka Aerospace Technology Centre at Aerospace and Defence Park in Devanahalli
- Reforms for professionalism among PSUs
- KSSIDC to develop industrial estates in Hubballi, Chittapur (Kalaburagi), Kodkani (Uttara Kannada), Kanagala (Belagavi), Badanaguppe (Chamarajnagara), Indi (Vijayapura) and Shahpur (Yadgir)
- To establish world-class incubation centre, Innoverse, with hi-tech facilities for startups at a cost of ₹50 crore
- Centre of Excellence in Wireless and Wired Technologies to be established at a cost of ₹25 crore

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, JOB CREATION NOT GIVEN PUSH

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Hubballi

THOUGH Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has found a correlation between industrial growth and the prevailing unemployment problem, proposals in the Budget don't reflect this. The Budget neither has any incentives nor has it given any broader policy framework to attract investments to ensure industrial growth. Moreover, trade and industry bodies here say the Budget has failed to enthuse industry.

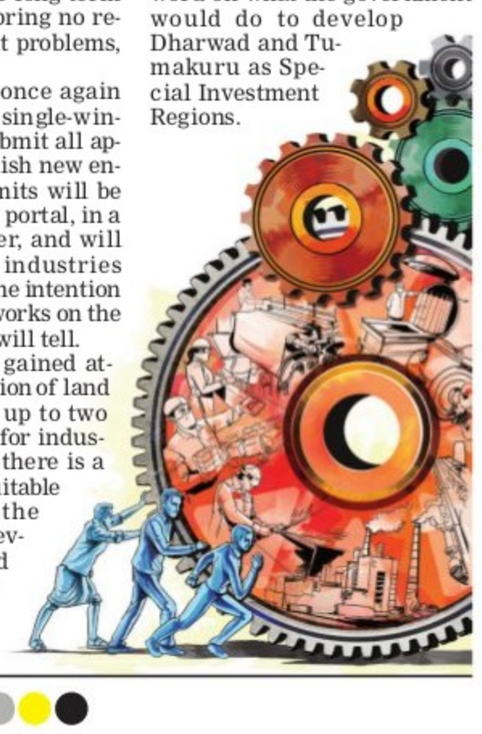
To address unemployment, Siddaramaiah says more employment opportunities should be created by ensuring rapid growth of industries on one hand, and increasing employability of youth on the other. "In this direction, our government is ready to take all necessary measures to promote growth of the industrial sector," he adds.

However, his remarks appear vague in view of the budget proposals. Setting up a technology innovation park in Bengaluru, a mega industrial township on the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, a manufacturing cluster in Vijayapura and an export cluster in Dakshina Kannada are long-term plans, and would bring no respite to the current problems, experts said.

The budget has once again spoken about the 'single-window system', to submit all applications to establish new enterprises. All permits will be issued on the same portal, in a time-bound manner, and will certainly attract industries and investments. The intention is good but how it works on the ground, only time will tell.

A proposal that gained attention was exemption of land use conversion of up to two acres of farmland for industrial purpose, and there is a proposal to bring suitable amendments to the Karnataka Land Revenue Act. It could give a big boost to the agro-processing industry, which could be established near farms.

Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Vinay Javali said there is no word on what the government would do to develop Dharwad and Tumakuru as Special Investment Regions.



Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch has cracked a new financial fraud and arrested the director of a Noida based digital services firm for allegedly manipulating the QR codes of generated by a fintech company in Bhubaneswar and cheating customers to the tune of over Rs 14 crore across the country

BUDGET AIMS TO ACHIEVE DREAM OF EQUAL SOCIETY

SIDDARAMAIAH, a constitutionalist, deploys constitutional values and approaches in his budgets with mind for the welfare of the marginalised and the poor. His record 14 budgets have not just been about numbers and statistics, but have a vision and philosophy of an egalitarian and inclusive society as enunciated by our Constitution. The dream of an equal society is not just about words but articulated in all his budgets to achieve targeted goals.

PROF S JAPHET, FOUNDING VICE-CHANCELLOR, Bengaluru City University, presently visiting professor at National Law School of India University

Social sectors, including education, health, housing, social welfare, women, minorities and child development, are typical areas for greater budgetary support as they are complementary to inclusive development.

In the present context of pushing the education sector into the private sector, Siddaramaiah promises, like Dr BR Ambedkar, a place for the key role of socialism in education planning and administration in the state. His priorities and approach are based on the capability-building approach of Dr Amartya Sen by focusing on priority areas of basic infrastructure and capability enhancement, including toilet facilities for girl children in schools. He has the credibility of linking infrastructure creation with livelihood promotion schemes such as MGNREGS. There is something interesting about nation-builders like Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, who thought like Siddaramaiah a few decades ago.

This is one of the most-inclusive and futuristic budgets that Karnataka has seen in years with a clear focus on investing in innovation as well as mainstreaming communities left behind to help Karnataka build a sustainable leadership position in India's Innovation Index.

The budget, along with the usual support to higher education institutions, has for the first time acted on the need for additional learning support to first-generation learners especially from minorities and backward communities, a key recommendation from across the academic spectrum. This support along with other incentives will enable these students to explore higher education in India or abroad as well as become entrepreneurs providing employment to their fellow communities.

Meanwhile, supporting students to improve their communication in English with a specific focus on Conversational English will help boost students' confidence and help them communicate better both at work as well as with peers. Overall a very balanced budget with both bold and practical support to foster Karnataka becoming an inclusive and innovative state of India.

We are a union of states. Every state, every district, every university is unique. Education is in the concurrent list. I strongly welcome a comprehensive Karnataka State Education Policy.

83 from K'taka stranded in Amarnath

Heavy rain, landslide force yatris to take shelter at military base camp

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

IN all, 83 people from Karnataka who had gone on a pilgrimage to Amarnath are said to be stranded due to heavy rain and landslides. Of them, 23 are from Gadag.

Officials at the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority told *The New Sunday Express* that as per preliminary information, over a 1,000 people are stranded and taking shelter at the Panchtarni Military Base Camp in Amarnath. Of these around 83 are found to be from Karnataka.

On Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's directions, a team of officials, lead by Authority Commissioner P Sunil Kumar, will go to Uttarakhand to take stock of the situation.

"After going to the location, meeting the officials, the stranded citizens and members of the Amarnath Shrine Board, the next course of action will be decided. We spoke to some from Gadag and they said that they have identified over 80 people from Karnataka. We are yet to get the final numbers and details of the rest of the stranded Kannadigas. So far, it is confirmed that they are all safe. All they want is to be evacuated from the location," Kumar told *The New Sunday Express*.

Officials said the group from Gadag had gone on the yatra on July 4 and reached Amarnath on July 6.

They got stranded as it poured heavily while returning. They also could not get the helicopter service because of the bad weather, officials said.

"The stranded pilgrims spoke to their relatives in Gadag and informed them that they were taking shelter at the base camp. Due to heavy rain, they have not got any food. An official contacted them over the phone and assured them that Army helicopters will be arranged, once the weather turns normal," officials said.

One of the relatives in Gadag said the yatris are stranded because of a landslide and heavy rain while they were on their way back.

They were shifted to the military base camp on Friday night, he added.

Gadag SP BS Nemagouda said, "A total of 23 people are now stuck at Amaranath. We have contacted the officials concerned in Bengaluru and in Amaranth and they have assured me to help them soon."

Amarnath Shrine Board helpline numbers

Toll-free numbers
14464, 18001807198

Panchtarni Base Camp helpline numbers
996037370/ 9414121477/ 9419123373

Karnataka State Emergency Operation Centre, Revenue Dept

Helpline numbers
1070/ 080-22253707| 080-22340676

Email ID
seockarnataka@gmail.com

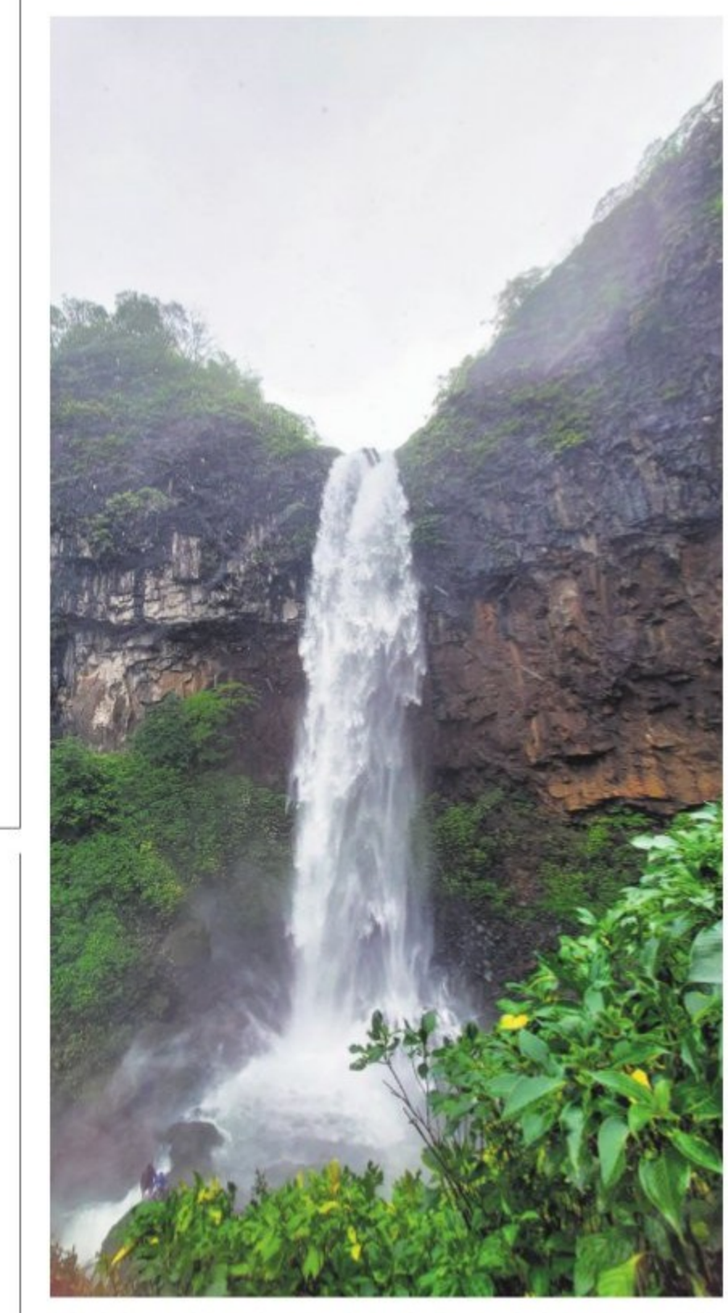
Guv meets Shah amid controversies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

GOVERNOR RN Ravi held discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi on Saturday for nearly 40 minutes. The Raj Bhavan in Chennai said, "The governor had a purposeful meeting with the union home minister."

The governor's meeting with the home minister assumes significance as it took place in the backdrop of recent developments in Tamil Nadu, including the controversy over the governor ordering dismissal of minister V Senthil Balaji from the state cabinet and the sanction for prosecuting four former ministers belonging to AIADMK.

The governor will stay in New Delhi till July 12 or 13, and is expected to meet certain other union ministers and the attorney general.



Shimbola waterfalls on the Karnataka-Goa border near Chorla in Khanapur in full glory after the pouring rain | EXPRESS

Elderly woman falls into stream, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

UDUPI district reported its rain related seventh death, as a 60-year-old woman identified as Baby Shetty died after falling into a stream in Nadayipalke, Nallur of Karkala taluk on Friday evening. She had gone to a nearby forest in search of her cattle that had gone to graze. It is assumed that she fell into an overflowing stream nearby.

Karkala rural police have registered the case under section 174 of CrPC. Udupi district-incharge minister Laxmi Hebbalkar met the kin of Praveen Acharya who had died after a tree had fallen on him when he was riding his two-wheeler at Belmannu, Karkala taluk on Thursday night. The minister extended condolences and handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh as compensation amount.

Soil slips, tree fall as Heavy Rain pounds Malnad region

Chikkamagaluru: With heavy rain continuing in the Malnad region, incidents of soil slips, tree fall and submersion of foot bridge have been reported. A giant jackfruit tree fell on the house of one Naratana at Maduvinakere village near Kooluru in Koppa taluk, resulting in losses to the tune of lakhs of rupees. Panchayat and revenue officials assessed the damage. With Bhadra river in spate, footbridge of Kagganalla village in Kalasa taluk was completely submerged, cutting off road connectivity to Holalu, Balehole estate, Biluguru, Birgal, Hemmakki and Gabgal villages.

'21 rain-related deaths in state'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kumta (Uttara Kannada)

REVENUE Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday visited rain-affected areas of Kumta and consoled the family members of two men who had died due to heavy rainfall.

Kumta MLA Dinakar Shetty explained about how villagers suffer every year during the monsoon.The minister visited waterlogged areas and the houses of Satish Pandurang Naik and Ullas Gavadi, who were washed away in a stream following heavy rain and consoled the family members and handed over them a cheque of Rs 5 lakh each as compensation.

He also instructed the officials to take every possible step to help the people in distress. Later speaking to reporters, the minister said 21 people have succumbed to rain fury in the state, including six in Mangaluru, four in Udupi and three in Uttara Kannada. More than 40 cattle have died and many houses have been damaged. "For every house that is damaged, we will give a compensation of Rs 1.25 lakh. The government will do everything to help the affected. The district incharge ministers of Mangaluru and Udupi visited the rain-affected areas and took note of the situation," he said.

BoM opens branch in Peenya

BENGALURU: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) inaugurated a new Mid-Corporate Branch in the Peenya Industrial Area on July 6. The branch was inaugurated by Zonal Manager Y Srinivas, Branch Manager Rohit Kumar Singh, and landlord Dr Rudresh.

'CM's office conspired with BJP to leak pvt bill'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

RESPONDING to the controversy related to the private bill presented in the Parliament demanding a change of the capital of Kerala from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi, Hibi Eden MP said on Saturday that such bills are the prerogative of an MP and such bills are issued to spread ideas and debate on them.

"This bill was leaked from the Chief Minister's office after conspiring with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in power at the centre," alleged Hibi. "Private bills are the prerogative of an elected representative. It can be submitted without the consultation of the party," he said, adding that the private bills are meant to promulgate an idea and discuss it rather than the government taking a decision on it or approving it.

Seer was given electric shocks, says relative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pradeep Nandgaon, a relative of the seer, alleged that the seer was tortured, given electric shocks and later his body was cut into pieces. "Shockingly, when the seer went missing, the main accused was with us when we launched a search," he said.

MLC Prakash Hukkeri, who visited the ashram, said the home minister has promised a thorough investigation into the murder. The seer wanted to start an educational institution by constructing 22 classrooms at Hirekudi. "We will fulfill his dream," he added.

Meanwhile, Acharya Gunadhar Nandi Maharaj, a Jain seer, said the murder of Hirekudi seer has shocked the community's seers and their devotees. The government should ensure that the accused get harsh punishments.

ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH

Veteran Malayalam producer Achani Ravi dies

KOLLAM: K Ravindranathan Nair, popularly known as Achani Ravi, who played a crucial role in promoting art-house movies in Malayalam, passed away at his residence in Kollam around 11.45 am on Saturday. He was 90. Also known as General Pictures Ravi, he was the producer of many internationally acclaimed movies by art house directors. He was a visionary of new-wave Malayalam films.

Woman dies after she was pushed down by mobile snatchers from moving train

Chennai: A 22-year-old woman who was found unconscious on the platform of Indira Nagar MRTS station earlier this week and hospitalised died on Saturday. Inquiry revealed that she had sustained a fall trying to resist a couple of men who snatched her mobile phone. Police have arrested the accused Vignesh alias Vinoth (27) and Manimaran (19). According to sources, the victim, S Preethi from Kandanchavadi, was working in a private company in Kotturpuram. Around 4.30 pm on July 2, she was lying unconscious on the platform of Indira Nagar MRTS station. She was admitted to the GRH, where she died around 1.30 am on Saturday at the hospital.

K'taka HC stays probe into Nadda's case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Karnataka High Court has stayed the investigations against BJP national president JP Nadda over his speech during the recent assembly polls that allegedly violated the Model Code of Conduct.

Nadda had filed a criminal petition seeking cancellation of the case registered against him by Harapanahalli police. The case was heard by a single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna who passed the interim order staying the investigations and adjourned the hearing to July 21.

The case pertains to Nadda's speech at an election rally at Harappanahalli's IB Circle in Vijayanagara district on May 7, 2023, where he is alleged to have said that the voters would be deprived of the Central government schemes if BJP lost the polls. He is also alleged to have said that if Congress came to power, many of the BJP-ruled Centre's projects would be terminated.

The Election Vigilance Division officials had filed a complaint with Harapanahalli police alleging that Nadda's speech was in violation of the MCC which was in force then.

TECH-BOUND

National Sanskrit University digitises 4,000 ancient manuscripts

SRI KRISHNA KUMMARA @ Tirupati

SOON research scholars in the field of Sanskrit will be able to get access to 4,000 digitised ancient manuscript bundles collected and preserved at the repository of National Sanskrit University, Tirupati.

The 4,000 digitised manuscripts will be uploaded to dSPACE web portal, which will be under the authorised control of NSU Vice-Chancellor and other university officials, and provisional access will be given to research scholars and organisations which are into the research study of Sanskrit language.

The NSU has nearly 7,000 ancient manuscript titles donated and collected from various donors across AP and stored at its repository. Of the 7,000 manuscript titles covering 14 major Sastras in 12 different ancient Indic scripts, the university completed the digitisation of 4,000 manuscripts.

The Palm Leaf Manuscript Conservation Centre, a separate division of NSU was formed in 1964 with an objective to conserve manuscripts incorporating modern and indigenous methods of conservation and training a new generation of manuscript conservators.

Dr Sayanto Mahato, Preservation Assistant of the manuscript repository (NSU) said: "The university has launched the process to upload the manuscripts on the dSPACE web portal and completed 100 manuscripts in the last six months."

He elaborated that the university aims to finish the process of uploading the remaining 3,900 manuscripts on the web portal in the next 12 months. Albeit, the number of manuscripts uploaded to the portal form a short number, the number of bundles will be higher as each manuscript consists of 2 to 3 manuscript bundles, Sayanto Mahato added.

> **The university has launched the process to upload the manuscripts on the dSPACE web portal and completed 100 manuscripts in the last six months.** — Dr Sayanto Mahato, Preservation Assistant

"Once a research scholar or an individual or an organisation which is into Sanskrit puts a request to the university that they need to research about a particular Grandha; the university after verifying their request will give access to the manuscripts on the web portal," Sayanto Mahato explained.

He said this move will allow the researchers access to the rarest and most endangered manuscripts and also the access of the unpublished manuscripts and critical editions.

The manuscript repository at National Sanskrit University

TIRUNELVELI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Opposite to Exhibition Ground

S.N. High Road, Tirunelveli - 627 001, Tamil Nadu.

Date	06/07/2023
Loan No. and Title	49107-IND: Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP): Tranche 1
Contract No. and Title	Tender Notice No.17/2023-24 Providing UGSS to Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation — Phase III, Package 2 (Zone 5) & Package 3 (Zone 6 & Zone 4 Eastern Part)
Deadline for submission of Bids	14th August 2023 at 15.00 hrs. (IST)

1. India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP) — Tranche 1.** Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
2. **"The Commissioner,Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation"** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for **Providing UGSS to Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation — Phase III, Package 2 (Zone 5) & Package 3 (Zone 6 & Zone 4 Eastern Part).** ("the Works").
3. **National competitive bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Sl. No. (a)	Package (b)	Minimum Avg. annual construction turnover in INR. (c)	Financial Resources in INR. (d)	Value of the Bidder's participation exceeds in INR. (e)
1	Package 2 (Zone 5)	106,00,00000.00	17,67,00000.00	106,00,00000.00
2	Package 3 (Zone 6 & Zone 4 Eastern Part)	102,65,00000.00	17,11,00000.00	102,65,00000.00

- Minimum average annual construction turnover, calculated as total certified received payments for contracts in progress or completed, within the last Three (3) years; (as mentioned in the above table's column ©) Has financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments defined, meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract (as mentioned in the above table's column (d)).
- Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds (as mentioned in the above table's column (e)). The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology, or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements).
- Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.
- **However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, bid document should be referred.**

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact :

The City Engineer, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation (TCMC) S.N. High Road, Opposite to Exhibition Ground, Tirunelveli — 627001, Tamil Nadu, India
Mobile No. +91 9442201304. E-mail: 1. tvlcorpengg2@gmail.com 2.commr.tirunelveli@tn.gov.in

6. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on **28th July 2023 at 11.00 hrs. (IST),** at the address stated above.
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should:
   - Visit the office of the Employer at address stated above and pay a non refundable fee of INR 5000 towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in favor of the Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, payable at Tirunelveli.
   - In case of written request, the document will be sent by post/courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 3000 for delivery. The method of payment will be through bank demand draft in favor of the Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation, Tirunelveli. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

Eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language at no cost in any of the following **website:https://tntenders.gov.in,**

Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from above websites shall inform Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation in writing (and provide their contact details) at the address given above, failing which Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.

8. **Deliver bids:**
   - To the address above on or before the deadline: **14th August 2023 at 15.00 hrs** (IST)
   - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   - Electronic submission is not allowed.

Bids will be opened on **14th August 2023 at 15.30 hrs** (IST) in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, whereas the financial bids of those Bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and not qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.

DIPR/3535/TENDER/2023

Commissioner, Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation.

* சொகுசான வடக்கு கருத்திற்கு அடைத்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்*

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MADURAI DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE NO: U-E-OT-2023-08 dated: 07.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of Union of India, The Divisional Electrical Engineer / General service /Madurai, invites E-TENDER for the following works.

The prospective tenderers/bidders will be able to submit their offers online & upto **15:00 hrs.** of closing date of each tender. Submission of offers manually is not permissible and manual offers if any, received even within the closing time of the tender, will be summarily rejected.

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Name of work	Tender Closing Time and Date	App. Tender Value in (₹)	Bid Security in ₹	Period of Completion
1	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-01** MDU Division - Vande Bharat trainset maintenance facilities along with OHE for existing pit line 3 and 4 at MDU Electrical power supply and Lighting arrangements	15:00 hrs & 28.07.2023	28,22,073/-	56,500/-	3 Months
2	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-02** MDU Division - Vande Bharat trainset maintenance facilities along with OHE for existing 2 pit lines of TEN - Electrical power supply and Lighting arrangements	15:00 hrs & 28.07.2023	29,23,004/-	58,500/-	3 Months
3	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-03** MDU Division: Proposed extension and raising of PF at VPT-MEJ-TN section - Power Supply arrangements and Wiring & Installation.	15:00 hrs & 28.07.2023	53,97,537/-	1,08,000/-	6 Months
4	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-04** Madurai Division: Provision of lighting and automatic pumping arrangements in 20 Nos of subways	15:00 hrs & 21.07.2023	36,02,052/-	72,100/-	6 Months
5	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-05** MDU Division: Sr.DEN/S/MDU Jurisdiction - Proposed raising of Low level PF to High level PF Total 14 Nos of PF Raising at 9 stations. - Power supply arrangements and Wiring & installations	15:00 hrs & 31.07.2023	48,34,010/-	96,700/-	6 Months
6	**Tender No. U-E-OT-2023-08-06** MDU Division - Improvement Works at Tenkasi Jn. station under Amrit Bharat Station scheme - Electrical power supply and Lighting arrangements	15:00 hrs & 31.07.2023	26,79,380/-	53,600/-	6 Months

NOTE:

1. The prospective tenderers / bidders are requested to register themselves with IREPS (Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System), if not done already, for participating in E-Tenders, Registration form is available on IREPS site (Quick link New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender).
2. Contractors / Bidders are requested to procure Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) Class III or appropriate from Govt. of India, authorized Certifying authority (CCA-Controller of Certifying Authority) for participating in E-Tender & to log into IREPS.
3. Contractors / Bidders are requested to Pay Bid Security. The Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The bid without Bid Security will be summarily rejected.
4. No tender form cost for all the above tenders.

For details interested persons may kindly be log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Smt. Annamma Chandy,** W/o Late P.V.Chandy, residing at No.102, Kalathur Layout, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore- 560013 hereby informs that the original sale deed dated 09/09/1985 bearing document No. 1151/1985-86, Volume No.3872, Pages 66 to 69 of Book No.I, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, which have been lost / misplaced. My client has also lodged a police complaint and Lost Report No. 0614165/2023 dated 23/06/2023 before Bangalore City Police. Any person is in possession of the aforesaid documents may return the same to me or any one having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing within **10 days** from this date to the undersigned, failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

S. NAGARAJU, Advocate
No.56/2, 5th Main, 2nd Cross, Mathikere, Bangalore-560 054

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR DOCUMENT LOST

My Client **Mr. M. Saud Ahmed S/o. M. Mazhrudin,** aged about 53 year R/at Ramakrishna Apartments Flat No. 302, Chowdappa Block, R.T. Nagar Post Bangalore do hereby inform to the General Public that, he has misplaced/lost the title deeds of property bearing site No. 102, such as Registered sale deed dated 23.04.2003 Registered as document NO. 1057/2003-04, Sale deed dated 04.05.2006 registered as document No.KRI-1-03865/2006-07 and Sale deed dated 11.01.2007 registered as document No.KRI-1-31213/2006-07 all are in resepct of the schedule property. At the time of Shifting by house on 07.07.2022 at R.T.Nagar, Bangalore and he has given police complaint to the R.T Nagar Police on 08.07.2023. My client **Mr. M. Saud Ahmed** further informed to the General public that, he is intend to Sell the Schedule property to **Mr. A.R. Farook Ahamed.** If any person/s, firm, Company, Institution or Organization has any claim are holding the afore said mentioned document or any objection they may contact to undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that, there is no any claim or objections from anyone in resepct of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing site **No. 102,** V.P. Khata No. 763 formed in Converted Sy No. 12/12 (Vide conversion order No. ALN SE (SA) 156/1996-97 dated 29.08.1996) situated in the layout called as **ANNAM ENCLAVE at Thanisandra Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring EAST to WEST 30 feet and NORTH to SOUTH 50 feet totally measuring **1500 Sq. feet** and bounded on::

EAST BY : Site no. 103, WEST BY : Site No. 101 NORTH BY : Road, SOUTH BY : Site No. 123

GAJANAN S.M. Advocate
No. 14/3, CFC Building (Annex)
4th floor, OPP. RBI, NT Road,
Bangalore -560 001.Cell :95908 17733

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 # 1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002

Take notice that IndusInd Bank Limited, has issued a notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("the Act"). The notice was duly sent to the addresses by Regd. Post with acknowledgement due which returned undelivered by post office. The contents of which are being published herewith as per the Section 13(2) of the Act read with Section 13(8) & 13(13) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the Borrowers, Guarantors, Securities, Outstanding Dues, Demand Notice Sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:

Name and Address of the Borrower : 1. M/s MA Associates, No. 393, 14th Cross, Wilson Garden Garden, 1st Floor, Bangalore, Karnataka-560030. **(2) Mr. Anwar BasheerMohammed,** S/o Mohammed Anwar Ebrahim, 22, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Near Richmond Hotel, Bangalore, Karnataka-560025. **No. 2 also at, Mr. Anwar Mohammed Basheer,** No. 393, 14th Cross, Wilson Garden Garden, 1st Floor, Bangalore, Karnataka-560030. **(3) Mrs. Farheen Fahim Abdulazeez,** W/o Mr. Mohammed Fahim, 22, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Near Richmond Hotel, Bangalore, Karnataka-560025. **No. 3 also at, Mrs. Farheen Fahim Abdulazeez,** No. 393, 14th Cross, Wilson Garden Garden, 1st Floor, Bangalore, Karnataka-560030. **(4) Mr. Anwer Mohammed Fahim,** 22, Serpentine Street, Richmond Town, Near Richmond Hotel, Bangalore, Karnataka-560025. **No. 4 also at, Mr. Anwer Mohammed Fahim,** No. 393, 14th Cross, Wilson Garden Garden, 1st Floor, Bangalore, Karnataka-560030. calling upon them to repay the banks dues of **Rs.1,61,84,748.07 (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight and Paisa Seven Only)** along with further interest as per sanctioned terms due as on **31-05-2023** and other costs, charges, expenses incurred within 60 days of the date of notice. The bank dues are secured by the following assets.

Description / Details of Facilities sanctioned

Sl.No.	Nature of Facility with Loan account Nos.	Amount (Rs.in lacs)
1.	Cash Credit 650003910044	465.00
	Total	465.00

Details of Secured Assets (MORTGAGED PROPERTIES) : Mortgaged by way of exclusive first charge on the entire current assets of the borrower comprising inter alia of stocks of raw material, work in progress, finished goods, receivables, book debts and other current assets of the defendant No.1.

Schedule Property : Property of Mr. A. Mohammed Bahseer Sale Deed No. 1135/94-95, Dated 08.07.1994. Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of land bearing Municipal No. 1 (Old No.3 and Further Old No. 1-A) in Municipal Division No. 61, situated at St. Marks Road, Bangalore- 560001 with a total land area of about 28000 (Twenty eight thousand) sq.f.t. or 3111.11 Sq. Yards and bounded on the: East by: St. Marks Road, West by: Bishop Cotton Boy's School, North by: Private Premises No. 4&5 (Shilton Hotel), South by: Bishop Cotton Boys School.

Schedule 'B' Property : All that piece and parcel of the Flat(Unit) in the ground floor on the western portion of the composite building with a super built up area including car parking in the Ground Floor facing the Apartment measuring 733.37 sq.ft. being part of unit No. G1, i.e. Unit No. G1/1 and bounded on the East by: Other portion of composite property No. 1 of the Vendors and off St. Marks Road,West by: Bishop Cotton Boys School, North by: Private Property- Dodlani's Hotel and South by: Bishop Cotton Boys School.

Property of Mr. A Mohammed Basheer Deed of Exchange No. 4021/05-06, Dated 05-12-2005. Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of composite Property bearing Municipal No. 1 (Old No.3 and Further Old No. 1-A) in Municipal Division No. 61, situated at St. Marks Road, Bangalore- 560001 with a total land area of about 28000 (Twenty eight thousand) sq.f.t. or 3111.11 Sq. Yards and bounded on the: East by: St. Marks Road, West by: Bishop Cotton Boy's School North by: Private Premises No. 4&5 (Shilton Hotel), South by: Bishop Cotton Boys School

Schedule 'B' Property : All that piece and parcel of commercial apartment in the ground floor on the western portion of the composite building known as 'The Presidency' bearing Unit No. G-1/8, having a total super built up area of 733.37 Square Feet, Undivided Share of 1.4669% or 410.74 square feet in the Schedule 'A' property and car parking space in the basement floor along with all the common areas in the building and bounded on the; East by: Other Portion of **Schedule 'A' Property and St. Marks Road, West By: Bishop Cottons Boys School, North By: Private Property, South By: Bishop Cottons Boys School.**

Property of Mr. A Mohammed Basheer Sale Deed No. 1252/94-95, Dated 13.07.1994

Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of land bearing Municipal No. 1 (Old No.3 and Further Old No. 1-A) in Municipal Division No. 61, situated at St. Marks Road, Bangalore- 560001 with a total land area of about 28000 (Twenty eight thousand) sq.f.t. or 3111.11 Sq. Yards and **bounded on the:** East by: St. Marks Road, measuring 64 feet on that side, West by: Bishop Cotton Boy's School measuring 84 feet on that side, North by: Private Premises No. 4&5 (Shilton Hotel)- St. Marks Road, and the land forming part of premises no. 3, St. Marks Road, Bangalore, sold to Smt. VangivakaMohanamma and measuring about 277 feet on that side, South by: Bishop Cotton Boys School measuring 284 ft. on that side

Schedule 'B' Property : All that piece and parcel of the Flat(Unit) in the ground floor on the western portion of the composite building with a super built up area measuring 800.08sq.ft. being part of unit No. G1, i.e. Unit No. G1/9 and bounded on the East by: Other portion of composite property No. 1 of the Vendors and off St. Marks Road, West by: Bishop Cotton Boys School, North by: Private Property- Dodlani's Hotel and South by: Bishop Cotton Boys School.

Statement as on 31-05-2023

Particulars of Loan	Principal outstanding	Add : Interest Outstanding	Amount (Rupees)
Cash Credit 650003910044	Rs.1,56,06,127.07	Rs.5,78,621	Rs. 1,61,84,748.07
		Total Outstanding	Rs. 1,61,84,748.07

Aggregate Outstanding amount as on **31.05.2023 is1,61,84,748.07 (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight and Paisa Seven Only)**together with further interest at documented rate from **01.06.2023** to the date of payment and other costs.

Date : 26.06.2023
Place: HYDERABAD

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Ltd.

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Bengaluru Zone: #11, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-09
Tel: 080-2295 9407/08, E-mail: Bengaluru.ARD@bankofindia.co.in

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties Mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Bank of India,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned amount/s. The details of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date, Time & EMD amount are mentioned below.

SI No	NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER/S / GUARANTOR/S/ MORTGAGOR (S)	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITH KNOWN ENCUMBERANCES	BRANCH NAME; ACCOUNT NO; TOTAL DUES	DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION	RESERVE PRICE; EMD AMOUNT;	STATUS OF POSSESSION (SYMBOLIC/ PHYSICAL)	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE
1	**M/s. Sri Annapurna Catering,** No.4,27/1, Yarandahalli Hennagara Post, Kiadb 4th Phase, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562106. **(Partners & Guarantors) 1. Mr. Chandrashekar Shetty** S/o Mahabal Shetty No.4,27/1, Yarandahalli Hennagara Post, Kiadb 4th Phase, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562106. **2.Mr. Kariyappa K M** S/o Manjappa, No.57, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, Nagarbhavi, Hanumagiri Layout, Bangalore-560072. **3.Mr. Pradeep R** S/o Rangappa, No.57, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, Nagarbhavi, Hanumagiri Layout, Bangalore-560072.	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Residentially converted land bearing survey no.31/2 situated at Nimbekayipura Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Hoskote Taluk), Bangalore District measuring 01 Acre 35 Guntas out of 05 Acres 13 Guntas excluding 07 Guntas of Kharab land (conversion of agricultural to non-agricultural residential purposes sanctioned by the Special Deputy Commissioner vide Official memorandum dated 21.01.2011, No. ALN.SR(EBK)49/2010-11) and bounded as follows:East by : Land bearing Survey No.31/1, West by : Road, North by : Remaining portion of Survey No.31/2, South by : Land bearing Survey Nos.28,29 and 30. **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential immovable property being a Residential Villa / Row House bearing E-Khata No.119/129/115/125/31/2/1, RDPR No.15020040160140011 4 [Unit no.01,4 BHK] situated at Nimbekayipura village, Manduru Gram Panchayat, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore – 560 049 in the Residential Project comprising of Row Houses known as "SAMRUDHI MYSTIC WIND" with 926.0793 square feet of plinth area, with 597.4397 square feet of exclusive right to use the garden area and 450.2533 square feet of proportionate undivided land area (common areas) together with the building thereon, comprising of ground and two upper floors of super built-up area of 2900 square feet (inclusive of common wall between two residential units as may be applicable and proportionate share in super built up area of the club house facility with exclusive use of garden area) comprised in residentially converted land bearing Sy.No.31/2 measuring 01 Acre 35 guntas out of 05 Acres 13 guntas excluding 07 Guntas of Kharab land at Nimbekayipura village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk(earlier Hoskote Taluk), Bangalore District Bangalore – 560049 presently within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of the Manduru Grama Panchayat and land area of the row house owned by M/s Annapurna Catering, a partnership Firm represented by it's partners Mr. Chandrashekar Shetty, Mr. Pradeepa R and Mr. Kariyappa K M measuring as below:- East to West : 7.62 meters, North to South : 17.46 meters, Total land area : 135.02 square meters, Building measuring : 269.41 square meters. And bounded as follows: East by : Plot / Unit No.02, West by : Compound wall / road, North by : Compound wall, South by : Drive way.	**BRANCH : KOTHANUR A/C No: 845875110000006 for recovery of Rs.1,88,20,820.10 +interest @ 7.55% p.a. from 01.04.2021 and A/C No. 845860210000004 for recovery of Rs. 10,22,180.44 +interest @ 8.15% p.a. with monthly rests from 01-04-2021 and costs, charges due to BANK OF INDIA,**	**25.07.2023 & 11.00 Am to 05.00 Pm**	**Reserve price: Rs.1,16,00,000/- EMD: Rs.11,60,000/-**	**Physical**	**From 10.07.2023 to 24.07.2023 between 10.00 Am to 4.00 Pm Contact:AO Mobile. No.0810 7771036 080-28443088/ 99**
2.	**Mr. Kalairaj M (Borrower)** Flat No 202, First Floor, V S Vaishnavi Heavens, Muncipal No.2530, 14th Main, Kumaraswamy Layout IInd Stage, Bangalore-560055.	**Schedule – I : (Details of the Immovable Property wherein mortgaged property is situated) :** All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential building bearing BDA Site No.2530, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority at Kumaraswamy Layout II Stage, Bangalore, presently bearing Municipal No. 2530, New PID No. 181-W0266-10 (Old PID No. 55-356-2530), situated at Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.55 of Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West (12.20+17.30)/2 Meters and North to South 18.00 Meters, admeasuring 265.50 Sq. Mtrs. The Boundaries of the Property: East by : Property bearing No. 2529, West by - C.A. Area, North by - Property bearing No. 2542 & 2541, South by - Road. **Schedule – II : (Details of the Mortgaged Property) :** All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No.202, situated at First Floor of the "V. S. VAISHANAVI HEAVENS" Apartment, situated at Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.55 of the Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore. Measuring 1425 Sq.Ft. of super built up area, consisting of Three Bedrooms, One Hall, Kitchen, together with one covered car parking space in stilt floor. The Flat bearing No.202 is owned by Mr. Kalairaj M. The Boundaries of the Property: East by - Common Passage, West by - Set Back, North by - Staircase & Flat No.201, South by - Set Back & Road. **Schedule – III :** 285.6 Sq.Ft. of undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property.	**BRANCH : RPC LAYOUT for recovery of Rs.59,34,777/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven) for A/c No.842375110000240, with further interest @ 9.55% p.a. with monthly rests from 01-04-2021, with all costs and other charges due to BANK OF INDIA, RPC Layout Branch**	**25.07.2023 & 11.00 Am to 05.00 Pm**	**Reserve price: Rs.59,34,000/- EMD: Rs.5,93,400/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 10.07.2023 to 24.07.2023 between 10.00 Am to 4.00 Pm Contact:AO 080-22959516/ 517 Mobile No.08985 355531**
3.	**1.Mr. Prashanth Kumar K (Borrower)** No.20, 2nd Floor, Hari Kiran, Apartment, 6th Main Road, 6th Cross, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560078 **2.M/s Frequency Productions (Prop-Mr. Prashanth Kumar K),** No.28, 2nd 'A' Cross, Kathriguppe, Main Road, Srinivasa Nagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560085.	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property comprised of two adjacent portions i.e. First Portion consisting of Old House constructed on the Site measuring East to West 12 Feet and North to South 65 Feet and Second Portion of the same Site consisting of House constructed on the Site measuring East to West 47 Feet 6 Inches and North to South 32 Feet, the building totally measuring about 1800 Square Feet, built on and including the Site on which it is built, with both the portion in all measuring 2303.20 Square Feet(As per deed) & 2248 Sqft(As per actual), being western part of earlier property bearing Khaneshmari No.94/1, Byatarayanapura Village, Bangalore, now bearing common New Municipal No.1/8, BBMP PID No.41-2-1/8, situated on Mysore Road 'A' Cross, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru, coming within the limits of Ward No. 41, Gali Anjaneya Temple of BBMP, together with all Civic Amenities. The property is owned by Mr. Prashanth Kumar K. The Boundaries of the Property: East by - Way to Ashram, West by - Drainage and thereafter Private Property, North by - Property belongs to Varadappa and Jayaram, South by - Property belongs to Varadappa.	**BRANCH: VV PURAM A/C No: 840275110000342 & 840230110000132 for recovery of Rs.87,47,267.77 (Eighty Seven Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven and Paisa Seventy Seven) with further int @ 7.45% p.a. for Housing Loan and Rs.5,74,407.65 (Five Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred Seven and Paisa Sixty Five) with further int @ 9.55% p.a. for Cash Credit Facility. Totalling to Rs.93,21,675.42 with monthly rest from 30-05-2022 and costs, charges due to BANK OF INDIA, VV Puram Branch**	**25.07.2023 & 11.00 Am to 05.00 Pm**	**Reserve price: Rs.1,21,00,000/- EMD: Rs.12,10,000/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 10.07.2023 to 24.07.2023 between 10.00 Am to 4.00 Pm Contact:AO Mobile No.09845 479330 Mobile No.09710 118218 080-22959523 080-22959524**
4.	**M/s SJM INFOTECH PVT LTD,** No. 198 & 199, Ullal Main Road, Annapurneshwari Layout, Bangalore 560079. **1. Mr.Manjunath T K (Director), 2. Mrs. Pavithra A S (Director),** Both are residing @ No. 2,3rd Cross, Society Colony, New MICO Road, Adugodi, Bangalore 560030. **Second Address:** No. 750, 4th Cross Road, Near RTO Office, Upkar Residency, Upkar Layout, Kengeri, Bangalore 560091. **Mrs. Chandramma N (Guarantor)** W/o. Kamala Kondappa T V **Residing at:** 750,4th Cross Road, Near RTO Office, Upkar Residency, Upkar Layout, Kengri, Bangalore 560091. **Second Address:** No. 195, Kai Thota Road, Near Karimariyamma Temple, Immadihalli, Whitefield, Bangalore North, Bengaluru 560066.	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property (Land & Building) bearing No.50/2, Khata No.398, BBMP Khata No. 670/598/50/2-398, situated at Rudrappa Layout, Hagadur Dhakale, Immadahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560087. Measuring East to West 70 Feet and North to South (30+40)/2 Feet, admeasuring 2450 Sq.Ft., owned by Mrs. Chandramma. The Boundaries of the Property: East by : Property of Dooda Thammaiah, West by : Road, North by : Property of D.R. Gurubasanna, South by : Immadahalli Garden Road.	**BRANCH: KORAMANGALA A/c No. 847970410000033 and A/c No. 847930110000021 for recovery of Rs.97,67,877.49 (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise forty Nine) for A/c No. 847970410000033 - outstanding as on 03.09.2022 with further interest thereon @1.25% over RBLR presently 10.00%p.a. and Rs.28,29,999.07 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Seven) for A/c No.847930110000021 - outstanding as on 03.09.2022 with further interest thereon @ 2.00 % over RBLR presently 10.75%p.a. from 03.09.2022, Totaling to Rs.1,25,97,876.56 compounded with monthly rests and all costs, charges due to BANK OF INDIA, Koramangala Branch from M/s. SJM Infotech Pvt Ltd and its directors/guarantors 1. Mrs. Pavithra Adugodi Shankarappa (Director), 2. Mr. Manjunath T K (Director), 3. Mrs. Chandramma (Guarantor).**	**25.07.2023 & 11.00 Am to 05.00 Pm**	**Reserve price: Rs.1,66,00,000/- EMD: Rs.16,60,000/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 10.07.2023 to 24.07.2023 between 10.00 Am to 4.00 Pm Contact: AO-.082258 30606**

To the best knowledge and information available with the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties referred above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property and to inspect & satisfy them. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website **https://www.boi.auctiontiger.net.** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.bankofindia.co.in/tenders. Date & Time of E-auction: 25.07.2023 between 11.00 AM & 5.00 PM** (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded).

Date: 07.07.2023, Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.,

AKIVIDU BRANCH
H.No.1-45/1, Peruri Plaza, Main Road, Akividu, A P.-534235

PUBLICATION OF DEMAND NOTICE

Reg: Notice issued under Sec 13 [2] of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 [SARFAESI Act] for recovery of dues in the loan a/c of **Borrower Cum Title Holder: (01) M/s.Jaya Lakshmi Rice Mill,** Rep by its Partners,H.No.4-108, Mulaparru Village,Nageswara Rao Peta, Bantumilli Mandal, Andhra Pradesh-521324. **PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR: (02) Mr.Samayamanthula Phani Kumar, S/o.Mr.S.Gopala Krishna Murthy,** H.No.15-80/2, akaraparthy, Chenchayya Street, Opp Andhra Bank, Akividu, Andhra Pradesh-534235. **PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR CUM TITLE HOLDER: (03). Mr.Navudu Ram Mohana Rao, S/o.Mr.N.Bhogeswara Rao,** H.No.19-87, Thegala Doddi Rail Station Road, Akividu, Andhra Pradesh-534235.**PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR: (04): Mr.Gadiraju Bhaskara Raju,S/o.Mr.G.Venkata Rama Raju,** H.No.1-3-9/3-8, Flat No.20, Vijaya Lakshmi Towers, Javulapalem Road, Near Cosmopolien Club, Satya Nagar, Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh-534202. **PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR:(05). Mr.Samayamanthula Gopala Krishna Murthy, S/o.Mr.S.Gangaiah,** H.No.15-80/2,Kakaraparthy Road, Chenchayya Street, Opp Andhra Bank,Akividu, Andhra Pradesh-534235. **PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR: (06). Mrs.Gadiraju Vijaya Bharathi,W/o. Mr.G.Bhaskar Raju,** H.No.1-3-9/3-8-201,Vijaya Lakshmi Towers, Near Cosmopolien Club,J.P.Road, Akividu, Andhra Pradesh-534235. **PARTNER CUM GUARANTOR: (07). Kattamuri Lavanya Lakshmi Prasanna, S/o.Mr.K.Suresh Kumar,** H.No.15-80/2, Kakaraparthy Road,Chenchayya Street, Opp Andhra Bank,Akividu, Andhra Pradesh-534235. **GUARANTOR: (08). Mr.Kattamuri Suresh Kumar,S/o.Mr.K.Uma Shankar Rao,** F-503, Giridhari Executive Park,Near Kalimandir, Bandlaguda,Hyderabad, Telangana-500091. **GUARANTOR CUM TITLE HOLDER : (09). Mrs.Kattamuri Venkata Lakshmi,W/o.Mr.Uma Sankara Rao,** Flat No.320, Golden Orchids Apartments, Devara Beesana Halli, Near Venugopala Swamy Temple,North Bangalore, Karnataka-560103. **GUARANTOR CUM TITLE HOLDER: (10). Mr.Kattamuri Uma Sankara Rao, S/o.Mr.Subba Rao,** Flat No.320, Golden Orchids Apartments, Near Venugopala Swamy Temple, Devara Beesana Halli, Bangalore.Karnataka-560103.Who availed the following credit facilities.

Sl. No	Nature of Facility	Account Number	Date of Loan	Amount (in Rs.)
01	OCC - Open Cash Credit Loan	4849223000000074	10.01.2019	(Rs.1,00,00,000.00)
	OCC - Open Cash Credit Loan(Reduction of Limit from Rs.100 lakhs to Rs.70 lakhs)		27.06.2022	Rs.70,00,000.00
02	Term Loan Building	4849738000000149	10.01.2019	Rs.25,00,000.00
03	GECL	4849809000000192	16.09.2020	Rs.24,00,000.00

Whereas you have committed default in repayment of loans in the above mentioned loan account to the secured creditor bank, the Bank had issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on **13.06.2023** calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount as mentioned below

Sl. No	Nature of Facility	Account Number	Sanction ROI	Outstanding dues (in Rs.)
01	Open Cash Credit	4849223000000074	12.10%	Rs.70,73,395.00 as on 31.05.2023
02	Term Loan Building	4849738000000149	11.90%	Rs.10,99,982.32 as on 10.06.2023
03	GECL	4849809000000192	8.20%	Rs.14,54,932.30 as on 05.06.2023
	Total Amount			Rs.96,28,309.62 Ps

Total Aggregate amount of Rupees Ninety Six Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousands Three Hundred and Nine and Paise Sixty Two Only

Whereas the notices sent to No. 1 to 10 of you by Regd. Post/Courier have been returned unserved for 6,8,9,10 of You. You are hereby called upon to visit the bank and obtain copy of the notice in your own interest in order to note the full particulars of the loan dues, securities

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया / Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Government of India Undertaking

Regional Office: 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005

Channapatna Branch

No. 2911/4-10, B M Road, Kuvempunagar, Channapatna, Ramanagara Dist.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(See Rule 8(1)Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Where as, The Undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Channapatna Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has caused a demand notice dated **12/09/2022** calling upon the borrower / Guarantor **(1) M/s. HKV Enterprises, represented by Proprietor Mohammed Muntaqueem Pasha, resident of 1572, Sathanoor Road, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District also at Khata Number 544, door number 312/1, Ward number 19, 4th cross, Syed Wadi, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District (2) Mr. Mohammed Samiulla, Door No. 312/1, Syed Wadi, 4thcross, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 13,67,864.37 (Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Four, Paise Thirty Seven Only)** together with the future interest till payment within 60days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The above Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Act rule 2002, on this **04-07-2023**

The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the Property will be subject to the Charge of **Union Bank of India, Channapatna Branch,** for an amount of **Rs. 8,71,427.37** interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the immovable Property: All that part and parcel of residential house property bearing Khata Number 544, door number 312/1, Ward number 19, 4th cross, Syed Wadi, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District owned by Mohemmed Samiulla, Measuring -1017.50 Sq Ft. **Bounded by:** East: Municipal Raod, West: Noor Arief House, South : House of Alim Pasha, North : Road.

Date: 04-07-2023
Place: Channapatna

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Union Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा / Bank of Baroda

India's International Bank

Bank of Baroda
B C Road Bantwala Branch, Ganesh Building, B C Road, Bantwal-574219
Ph: 0824- 2293194, 2290593

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of **Bank of Baroda** under securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice Dated 19.04.2023** calling upon the **Borrowers: Mrs. Sharmila V. Shetty**, W/o. Vachan Shetty, B901, Blue Bary Sky Line, Haripadavu Road, Konchady, Mangalore-575008 and **Mr. Vachan Shetty,** S/o. Sanjeeva Shetty, B901, Blue Bary Sky Line, Haripadavu Road, Konchady, Mangalore- 575008. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,22,62,200.24 (Rupees One Crore And Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred And Paise Twenty Four only)** plus interest and charges as applicable within 60 days from the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub- section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Act rule 2002,**on this 05 th day of July of the year 2023.**

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda, B C Road Bantwala Branch,** for an amount **of Rs. 1,22,62,200.24 (Rupees One Crore And Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred And Paise Twenty Four only) plus interest and charges thereon.**

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secure assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: Residential apartment bearing No. B-204, 2nd floor, Chime Block, in the residential complex known as "Victory Harmony" constructed on property bearing No. 12, situated at 4th cross, Sumangali Seva Ashram Road, Hebbal, Bangalore, Ward No. 96, measuring 1123 sq. ft. of super built up area with one covered car parking slot in basement floor. **Boundaries: North:** Land owned by Mr. Ramaredyy & Mr. Krishna Reddy (Private Property), **South:** Private property, **East:** Land owned by Mr. Abbayya (Private Property), **West:** Road.

Place: B.C. Road
Date: 05.07.2023

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client has entered into an Agreement / MoU with owner viz., **Mr.Syed Habeebullah** s/o Shri.Kaleemullah to purchase all that piece & parcel of Apartment / immovable property bearing **No.L-024in Tower Block The Burj** on 2nd Floor interalia comprised in the multistoried Residential Apartment Building **SJR Palazza City,** situated at DodaKaneli and ChikkaKaneli Village, Varthur Hobli, Blr East TQ, Bangalore., totally measuring **108.74** Sq.Mtr along with covered car park and proportionate UDS is bounded on :

East by : entrance lobby ;
West by : open space ;
North by : Flat Taipei K-023 ;
South by : Flat The Burj L-023 ;

Any person-entity transacting with abovenamed owner or anyone else in respect of immovable property supra has/shall do at his-her/its own risk and will not bind my client in any manner howso ever remote.

Any entity / person-s having any right, or interest over the aforesaid Property shall lodge its/his/her/ their objections to the undersigned, with documentary evidence in support of his-her-its claims within 10 days from today. Any objections and / or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my Client who shall proceed to deal with the same as if it never exists.

SIDDHARTH, ADVOCATE,
Ph: 70444 30405 / 93412 50578.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER. CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE. BHUBANESWAR

Mail i.d seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.05 of 2023-24

No. 2068 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 3rd July-2023

B-448: The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number interior building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed : **https://tendersorissa.gov,in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website **from 5:00 P.M of 10.07.2023 to 5.00 P.M of 24.07.2023**, The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 A.M. of 25.07.2023** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer
OIPR-34156/11/0005/2324 **Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar**

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE

e-mail: - seec_bls@rediffmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.CCEEC -09 / 2023-24

B-441 **No: 3434 / Dt: 30.06.2023**

Nature of work:- **Buildings Works**
Number of works **4 Nos Buildings Works**
Amount put to Tender:- **Rs. 195.40 Lakh to Rs. 383.01 Lakh**
Class of Contractor: - **"B" Class & "A" Class**
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- **Dt.10.07.2023 at 10:00 AM**
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal:- **Dt.24.07.2023 up to 05:00 PM**
Date of opening of bid :- **Dt.25.07.2023 at 11:00 AM**
Name & address of the Office inviting bid: - **Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore**

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http//tendersodisha.gov.in."** All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/- R.Rout
Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore OIPR- 34026/11/0009/2324

Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No. ಪಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಕಾವಿ–1:ಟೆಂಡರ್:06/2023-24 **Date: 06.07.2023**

Tenders have been invited in Single-cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per tender document procedure to undertake the following works in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through e-procurement tender can obtain the details in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

1.More details can be had from e-portal and other details at the office during working hours.

2. Period for completion of works: For Sl.No.1, 2, and 10 : 02 months. For Sl No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13 : 03 months and for remaining works 04 months.

3. Class of contractors: For Sl.No.1, 2 & 10 : Class IV and above, for other works Class III and above.

4. Grants: General Fund of City Corporation for the year 2023-24

Sl No	Indent No	Details of works	Approx. amount (Rs in lakhs)	EMD (In Rs)	Reservation	Last date for submission of tender :	Date of opening of tender
1	493	Works of raising and repairing the UGD chambers at KSSIDC Road, Vinobanagar, in Ward No. 18 of Shivamogga city.	7.40	9250.00	Scheduled Caste	14.07.2023 (upto 4.00 P M)	15.07.2023 (at 4.30 P M)
2	495	Works of installing a new drainage pipeline in 'A" block, Swamy Vivekananda Layout, Ward No. 06 of Shivamogga city.	9.90	12400.00	Scheduled Caste		
3	75	a). Improvement works of Siddeshwara Park in ward No. 05 of Shivamogga city. b). Construction works of box deck and improvements of road behind Vidyanagar General Hostel in Ward No. 34 of Shivamogga City. c) Construction works of Sopana Katte to Gurupura Channel in Ward No. 5 of Shivamogga city. d). Construction works of deck slab, road and box drainage upto Main road of Ambedkar Colony, in Ward No. 4 of Shivamogga city.	40.00	80000.00	Others		
4	1098	Improvement works of road from the office of Slum Area Clearance Board to Country Club in Ward No. 34 of Shivamogga city. b) Improvement works of Siddeshwara Park in Siddeshwara Layout in ward No. 05 of Shivamogga city. c) Improvement works 07 Swamy Vivekananda Park in Ashwath Nagar of Shivamogga city.	50.00	100000.00	Others		
5	1068	a). Improvement works of road and construction of box drainage at Priyanka Layout, right side of Vidyanagar, Ward No. 34 of Shivamogga city. b) Construction works of CC road at cross roads and main roads of Khaji Layout in Ward No. 01 of Shivamogga city. c). Advance works of construction of CC road at Ningappa Layout in Ward No. 31.	50.00	100000.00	Others	20.07.2023 (upto 4.00 P M)	21.07.2023 (at 4.30 P M)
6	697	Improvements of 2nd Cross Conservancy in Vidyanagar, in Ward No. 15, construction of CC road next to TV Tower in Vidyanagar, construction of open theatre to Harige Chilakadrihalli school, and whitewashing by applying inter-locking pavers, improvements of conservancy in the middle of 1st and 2nd Cross, Harige, advance work of improvements in front of Garadi Mane, 2nd Cross, 1st Main Road, Vidyanagara.	50.00	100000.00	Others		
7	916	Construction of Community Hall in Hanumanthanagar, Ward No. 10 of Shivamogga city and improvements of Park next to Ganapathi Temple.	50.00	100000.00	Others		
8	1087	Improvements work of Yoga Bhavan Building in Ashwathnagar, Ward No. 02 and improvements of park behind Shivalaya in Nemath Layout.	50.00	50000.00	Scheduled Caste		
9	78	Advance works of Vachanalaya Building at 6th Cross, 'A' Block, Sharavathinagara, Ward No. 19, advance work of Samudaya Bhavan near Library, next to Cemetery in Sharavathinagara, improvements of road next to Library in Sharavathinagara.	50.00	100000.00	Others		
10	1189	Repair works of Indira Canteen near DDPI Office, B H Road, in Ward No. 12.	8.35	10500.00	Scheduled tribe	14.07.2023 (upto 4.00 P M)	15.07.2023 (at 4.30 P M)
11	897	Construction works of Sabha Bhavan at Corporation's property No. 1527/5272, N No. 1389/0 opposite Shubha Mangala Kalyan Mantap road, Vinoba Nagar, Ward No. 18. (PID No 59279).	50.00	100000.00	Others	20.07.2023 (upto 4.00 P M)	21.07.2023 (at 4.30 P M)
12	60/CAL 1.2	a) Improvements work of 2nd Cross Road, right side of Malavagoppa in Ward No. 16, b). Improvements works of road from N R Pura to Cemetery, Vaddinakoppa Village in Ward No. 16, c). Improvement works of road around Harige Oppattuswamy Matt in Ward No. 15, d). Improvements works of road from Sulebail Bypass to Sapa Marwa Layout in Ward No. 35, and compound works of Kunchitagara Beedi Malleshwara Temple, Sulebail in Ward No. 35, e) Advance work of improvement of park in LBS Nagara (2nd ward) of Shivamogga city.	50.00	100000.00	Others		
13	39/CAL 1.2	Works of installation of pavers at 1st and 2nd cross of Tank Mohalla, A A Colony in ward No. 11, b). Improvement works of storm water drain at Ameer Ahmad Colony and Basavanagudi, in Ward No. 11, c). Shelter works of Samudaya Bhavan at Bhovi Colony in Ward No. 11, d). Works of construction of Auto Shelters at Shivamurthy Circle in Ward No. 11, e). Works of installation of children toy equipment at Tank Mohalla Government School in Ward No. 11. f). Works of construction of Women Skill Development Centre near Chowdeshwari Temple, A A Colony in Ward No. 11. g). Construction works of shelters at Sarvajna Circle in Ward No. 11.	50.00	100000.00	Others		

Note : Any corrigendum/changes will be intimated through e-portal.

ಪ.ಪಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಟೆ/ಸಂ:32–07/ದ್ಯುತಪಾರ್/2023–24

Sd/- Executive Engineer (D-1)
Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

IDBI BANK

CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838

IDBI Bank Ltd., Retail Recovery, Bengaluru Zonal Office, # 3rd Floor, IDBI House, 58 Mission Road, Bengaluru – 560027. Ph 080-61451322 Email:- recovery.bengaluru@idbi.co.in

NOTICE RECALLING LOANS
REGISTERED POST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DUE /RECORDED DELIVERY
Financial assistance sanctioned to you by IDBI Bank Limited - Defaults committed-Recovery Actions under SARFAESI Act 2002.

We, IDBI Bank Limited (IDBI Bank) have granted to you, at your request, Home Loan and/or Loan for Home Loan Insurance Premium (Details of loan amount mentioned in annexure below), for the purpose of purchase of flat and towards payment of Home Loan insurance premium. You have, inter alia, executed Loan and Security documents, and furnished other securities, and availed loan disbursement from IDBI Bank. You were required to repay to IDBI Bank, principal amount of the loan and make payment of interest and other monies thereon at the contractual rate. However, you have failed to repay/pay to IDBI Bank, principal amount, interest and other monies payable thereon, despite repeated request and reminders and hence your loan account(s) has become a Non Performing Asset/ Overdue. In view of the said default committed by you, IDBI Bank has become entitled to recall the loan dues and accordingly hereby call upon you and demand you to pay to IDBI Bank within a period of 15 days from the date hereof the sum mentioned in annexure below due as on date together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate upon the footing of compound interest till payment/realisation in full plus cost and other expenses. In case, you fail to comply with the aforesaid, IDBI Bank shall be constrained to take such steps as may be necessary for enforcing the securities and realising its dues as per law at your own risk, as to the costs and consequences thereof. Kindly note that, this notice is issued without prejudice to the rights and remedies of IDBI Bank, against the guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s)/pledgor(s) of the loan(s).

LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT IN DESTINY GABLES APARTMENTS (M M DESTINY DEVELOPERS) SITUATED AT SY NO 44/2, THUBARAHALLI VILLAGE, VARTHUR HOBLI, BENGALURU EAST TALUK, BENGALURU-560066

Customer ID	Name of Borrower	Address of Borrower	Flat No	Sanctioned Amount	Total O/s
99255305	Annapoorna A	No 5 117 1 3rd Main 2nd Cross,Kaveri Nagar Kathriguppe Bsk 3rd Stage, District-Bangalore, Karnataka, 560085	A 101	55,73,176	52,76,266.79
99940570	Karthik Vijayaraj	No 56 2nd Cross Club Road TC Palya Main Road,Near Anandapura Auto Stand, District-Bangalore, Karnataka -560036	C 103	61,66,827	58,72,205.38
99215019	Waseem Pasha	No 34/18 9th Main 1st Cross,Gurappanapalya Dharmaram College, District-Bangalore, Karnataka -560029	A 303	56,00,000	49,99,481.00
99220976	Fareeda Tarannum Ara	Flat No 501 Ar Raheem Apts Paramount Hills Colony Near Paramount Hills Hyderabad Telangana 500008	B 301	56,00,000	48,94,128.00
99255089	K Dorai Raj	K Dorai Raj, S/O Krishnan Door No 5/4,63rd Cross 6th Block Rajajinagar, District-Bangalore, Karnataka-560010	A 201	55,96,000	50,10,110.00
99458190	Rohini	Rohini, Flat No 202 1st Floor,Siri Harmony 4th Main, District-Bangalore, Karnataka-560061	C 404	68,00,000	67,09,496.00
99463156	Adil Iqbal	Adil Iqbal, No 4 Stephens Road,Frazer Town, District-Bangalore, Karnataka - 560005	C 305	74,75,000	72,15,897.00
99477622	Sandeep Yadav P	Flat No 802 Block A Aparna Serene Park Masjid Banda Road Rangareddy Telangana 500084	B 302	70,00,000	66,56,685.00
99705266	Badugu Anjaneyulu	No 2 J 77b/3 Flat No 502 Netha Nivas Road No 2 Near Sai Nagar Colony Rangareddy Telangana 500066	A 402	65,00,000	60,62,951.00
99743169	Shruti Ray	# 001, Vaastu Hill View 1, No. 275/2, H V Halli Ideal Homes, Bengaluru-560098	C 203 & C 306	1,17,48,000	1,08,29,919.00
100198376	B Rajendra Kumar	Flat No 004, Ground Floor, Rb Villa 3, 7th Cross, Anantha Nagar, Phase 2, Electronic City Phase 2, Bengaluru-560100.	A 102 & A 103	1,14,45, 280	1,11,33,696.00

LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT IN MULBERRY MIST APARTMENTS (M/S CMRS INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED) SITUATED AT SY. NO. 58/1, (OLD NO. 58), SY. NO. 55/3, SY. NO. 58, SY. NO. 57 AND SY. NO. 56, SITUATED AT VARTHUR VILLAGE, VARTHUR HOBLI, BANGALORE EAST TALUK – 560087

Customer ID	Name of Borrower	Address of Borrower	Flat No	Sanctioned Amount	Total O/s
94286554	Ravi Kumar	G03 Lotes Leaf App Owners Court Layout Near, Amritha Engg College Kasvanahalli Sarjapur Rd, District-Bangalore, Karnataka-560035	C-610	1,05,58,000	95,40,394.00
94619014	Varun Dutt Sharma	B1002 Ramky One Kosmos, Nallagandla, District-Hyderabad,state-Telangana (India), pincode-500019	C-711	52,38,259	45,75,149.00
93030464	Ketan Saraf	Flat No.52, Bharat Vandana Apartments, sec-19, Dwarka Rajapuri Delhi - 110075	102	52,00,000	44,20,250.00
94043451	Ajeet Kumar	No.D-7 D-Blk Nanhey Park, Matiala Uttam Nagar Delhi, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi State,pincode-110059	208	42,00,000	40,36,284.00
94069639	Vijay Kumar S Kouloor	D.no.265 4th Main 1st Main Cross,bhuvaneshwarinagar T-Dasarahalli, District-Bangalore, Karnataka, 560057	C-712	65,00,000	57,44,856.00
94288681	Prijo P P	H No.1/40 1st A Cross Medarahalli Main Road, Near Settihalli Railway Gate Chikkabanavara, Bangalore, Karnataka 560090	C-603	56,50,000	51,88,533.00
94799584	Manish Kumar Pandey	Flat No.1110 11th Flr Aditya Imperial Heights,I Block Manjeera Pipeline Road Hafeezpet, District-Hyderabad, State-Andhra pradesh, pincode-500049	C-710	50,50,000	47,75,190.00
95290005	Deepak Kumar	No.101 1st Floor Prestine Sindhu Site No.8 Raghuvanahalli Kanakapura Road Opp Yellamma Bangalore 560062	C-509	52,24,000	46,52,942.00
95642033	Shaik Sarvarbhasha	No.470a Mylasandra, Kengeri Hobli, District-Bangalore,state-Karnataka,pincode-560060	C-104	50,00,000	39,86,809.00
95788406	Anil Kumar Nayak	Flat No.302 3rd Floor Plot No.1398 A Block, AECS Layout Singasandra, District-bangalore-560068	B-016	46,00,000	30,73,250.00
95968885	Nabiluddin Z Shaikh	Room No.205 Lucky Chowk 22nd Main Rose Garden Road JP Nagar 5th Phase Bangalore - 560078	B-611	62,00,000	40,01,249.00
96096564	Suvendu Bandyopadhyay	F-no.102 1st Flr A Blk Bloom Field Bld No.43,7th Crs Rama Gondanahalli Borewell Rd Whitefield, Bangalore-560066.	C 205	54,50,000	51,66,169.00

LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF FLAT IN PINNACLE (M/S LANDSTAR HOMES) SY NO. 80/4, HIRANDAHALLI VILLAGE, BIDARAHALLI HOBLI, BENGALURU-560036

Customer ID	Name of Borrower	Address of Borrower	Flat No	Sanctioned Amount	Total O/s
3092908	M S V Srikanth	No.b-202 Silver County Apt Off Harlur Road Near KSRP Camp Kudlu Bommanahalli Bangalore 560068	120	48,85,584	51,42,217.00
93890938	Pushkar Bahri	H.no.488a,ground Floor, Hardev Puri, Gautam Nagar, District-New Delhi,state-New Delhi,pincode-110049	309	33,66,960	32,00,723.00
94067884	Krushna Chandra Nayak	Flat No.102 Shant 2 Sai Gardens Kadugodi Main, Road Opp To HP Petrol Pump, District-Bangalore - 560067	103	40,20,272	34,33,690.33
94497268	Kamlesh Kumar Jaiswal	B-312 Sriven Luminous Amaltas Bettadasanapura Main Road Doddathoguru E-city Phase 1 Bangalore 560100	003	43,15,983	38,32,139.00
95088262	Shihan Shariff	No.17 1st Floor 6th Main 3rd Cross, Maruthi Layout BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore 560029	003	40,36,098	43,98,364.00
95969364	Ankit Chrungu	No.302 Premdeep Homes 1st Main Road 3rd Cross Vinayak Temple Vinayaknagar Bangalore 560017	317	41,52,070	40,41,898.00
96272350	Parmanand Goswami	177 Hosamane 2nd Cross 5th Main, Thaiyappa Garden Bilekahalli, Bangalore – 560076	312	39,77,930	33,20,407.00
96272475	Praveen Kumar Sinha	C 0001 Nitesh Hyde Park, Hulimavu Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560076	008	50,49,507	42,47,931.00
96272792	Gouse Khan	No 234 3rd Floor 1st Main 2nd Block Devasandra Main Road K R Puram Bangalore - 560036	009	38,55,089	34,94,201.00
93528153	Upender Prasad	Flat No.C 15GM Infinite Silver Corner Apt,1st Rd,atmanand Colony, MR Palya Honey Backery, Bangalore 560032	001	49,00,000	42,74,784.00
93853326	T Anil Kumar Patro	No 58 2nd Floor Samriddhi Layout, Kurudusonnenahalli Virgonagar, Bangalore- 560049	031	36,97,000	33,53,246.00
94288708	Vishal Thapa	C/o DL Thapa 40 Upper Mawprem, District-Shillong, state-Meghalaya, pincode-793002	322	37,80,000	33,09,004.00
95042901	Rishikesh Choudhury	No.1208 SMR Vinay Endavour,hoodi, Bangalore -560066	015	40,00,000	34,75,971.00
95494319	Zameer Ahamad Khan M	No.6/15 Ground Floor 1st Cross, Bismilla Nagar Bannergatta Road, Bangalore-560029	105	35,00,000	31,58,218.00
95495943	Shani Dev Mishra	No.b-304 SSVR Tridax Balagere Road, Varthur Hobli Devasthanagalu, Bangalore - 560087	020	48,00,000	46,08,625.00
96047244	Harshit Mohan	No B 311 CMRS Royal Orchid Apartment Balagere Road Bangalore Karnataka 560087	007	50,00,000	45,80,041.00
96681981	Dinesh K	# 145, 1st Main, Bethal Nagar, Kodigehalli, Ayyappa Nagara, Krishnaraja Puram, Bengaluru-560036.	220	48,50,000	47,92,091

Date : 08.07.2023
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDBI Bank Limited

"If I had asked the public what they wanted, they would have said a faster horse"

Henry Ford

THE LONG SHADOW OF THE 1978 PAWAR POWER MODEL

THIS week marks 45 years of the emergence of a power-sharing model in India's political landscape. The model parked ideological differences, normalised the idea of give and take and validated the old cliché that politics is the art of the possible.

The dawn of the model merits a flashback. In 1978, Congress (U) led by Y B Chavan and Congress (I) by Indira Gandhi fought the Maharashtra polls separately. Neither won a majority, yet, despite animosities, joined to form the government under Vasantdada Patil. On July 12, Sharad Pawar who was home minister quit the government, walked away with 40 MLAs, split his mentor's party and in six days crafted a coalition of six parties to become the youngest chief minister on July 18.

Irony is a permanent invitee in India's politics. Last week, Ajit Pawar split the NCP, the party formed by his uncle and mentor Sharad Pawar, claimed to have 40 MLAs with him – exactly the number his uncle had in 1978 – and joined hands with the BJP and the Shinde Sena to be the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra. The cryptic buzz in political circles is that 'Ajit did a Pawar' to his mentor. On the flip side, sceptics believe Ajit Pawar's mutiny has the blessings of Sharad Pawar just as in 1978 it was believed that Pawar toppled Vasantdada on Chavan's directions. Truth has many versions in Maharashtra politics and is frequently in suspended animation!

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

July seems to be an eventful month in the Pawar calendar. In July 1986, Sharad Pawar was brought back to the Congress fold by Rajiv Gandhi. The void left by the merger of Congress (S) into Congress (I) created room for a new muscular brand of politics led by Shiv Sena and the BJP. This alliance came together on the broad plank of Hindutva in 1989. Pramod Mahajan, who was one of the architects of the alliance (with Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray), was also a key player in the crafting of the 1978 model.

The rhetoric of Hindutva was scaffolded by realpolitik. The contours of the 1978 model informed the drafting of the terms of engagement of the saffron alliance – in opposition in 1991 and in power in 1995. The power sharing agreement – the posts of chief minister and speaker, the number of cabinet posts and heads of state commissions – was defined by numerical strength in the house.

Cut to 1999. Sharad Pawar quit the Indian National Congress citing Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin as the issue and formed the Nationalist Congress Party. In the assembly elections which followed neither the saffron alliance nor the Congress siblings, who fought separately, bagged a majority. Notwithstanding the rhetoric through the campaign, the NCP and Congress parked their ideological differences and formed an alliance

Power sharing had evolved following many iterations of the 1978 model. The balance of power was calibrated by checks designed in 1995– the ministries of home, finance, power and PWD went to the second partner. Numerical strength of parties determined who got what -- except in 2004 when NCP ceded the post of CM to Congress despite winning more seats, which Ajit Pawar (and Devendra Fadnavis) hinted was to thwart his ambitions.

Over the years, to paraphrase Tacitus, politics accommodated itself as was advantageous. The 1978 Model blended in new customs and installed precedents. There are many avatars, but the essence of expediency is intact. Editions of the model have found their way into the playbook of alliances where core differences were parked in abeyance in the quest for power – most vividly illustrated by the multiple alliances and pivots by Nitish Kumar in Bihar.

Power is the adrenalin of politics and compromise the art of manoeuvring to stay in power, abandoning what should be for what is. Often former chief ministers accept to be just ministers – even reporting to those who reported to them. The Pawar cabinet of 1978 included S B Chavan who was the chief minister in the emergency years between 1975 and 1977. Narayan Rane, Chief Minister in 1999, joined Congress and was minister in the Prithviraj Chavan cabinet.

In 2019, Sharad Pawar recast the 1978 model and forged an unlikely alliance between the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress. The new formation found Ashok Chavan, Chief Minister between 2008 AND 2010 serving as minister under Uddhav Thackeray. In June 2022, Eknath Shinde split the Shiv Sena and entered into an alliance with the BJP. The new dispensation found former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis serving as deputy to Shinde who was once a minister under him.

Don't rule out new more twists and turns in the script. The alliance is sealing a three- way seat share to fight the next general and assembly elections together. Ajit Pawar said that his NCP would fight 13 to 15 Lok Sabha seats and 90 assembly seats. He also declared that he wants to be chief minister. and speculation is rife that this could happen in August. Electors vote for one government and get three instead! This may just be the dawn of a new power model!

BJP DIVIDE AND FOOL MAY BOOMERANG

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

DIVIDE and Rule is passé. The new political philosophy is Unite and Rule. As the countdown for Mandate 2024 begins, a belligerent BJP has embarked on a new political hunt to feed its national hunger and retain its power protein in India's body politic. The saffron leviathan's usual jungle playbook of acquisitions and mergers has been canned. The Congress Mukt Bharat slogan, too, has been binned for now. The Lotus Leopard is on the prowl to engorge the smaller regional parties. It targets nefarious netas who are either tainted by corruption or are perennially looking out for crumbs of power by trading their ideologies and ideals. During the past few months, the Hindutva-heavy leadership has unleashed its plan for the mass destruction of picayune parties, which can potentially damage its electoral chances in a state. Last week, its quarry was the most powerful Maratha leader, Sharad Pawar, and his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Barely 48 hours after Prime Minister Modi called NCP the most corrupt party, BJP's state leadership under Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hijacked two thirds of its leadership. He forced helpless Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to swear in nine NCP ninepins as ministers with the avariciously ambitious Ajit Pawar, Pawar Sr's nephew, as a second Deputy Chief Minister. Neither mathematically nor politically did this circus make sense since the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP combo's government enjoyed a comfortable majority. It is evident that the BJP's objective is to accelerate its process of eliminating regional parties from the coming electoral battle. With Pawar Sr pulling the coalition strings, the BJP, which won 41 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 in alliance with the Sena, isn't confident of repeating its numerical success. According to Maharashtra watchers, the BJP wouldn't have won even ten seats.

Logically, Shiv Sena and the NCP together had over 20 MPs. This electoral hookup was a natural target. Hence Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena was the first to be broken. He lost almost all his MLAs and power. However, recent internal assessments on the ground showed that the Shinde Sena would lose heavily because his acceptability as chief minister was minimal. A section of the BJP was convinced that it wouldn't win the Lok Sabha contest if Shinde led the government since an axis of Uddhav, the Congress and NCP was getting more public traction and had won many by elections. In a single disruptive move, the BJP was able to diminish Sharad Pawar's clout and convert Maharashtra's tallest Maratha leader legislatively into a tiny titan searching for new space. At least for now. The BJP's Maharashtra Model is unlikely to be limited to the state. If news dished out by the not-so-credible media is taken at face value, the saffron superpower could apply the same tactics to furcate the regional parties in Bihar, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. In these states, the BJP expects to compensate for any losses it would suffer in other states. After all, the party is faced with ten years of incumbency at the Centre and in many states. Looks like the double engine sarkar trope is losing steam and needs a "triple engine" formula in Maharashtra. Despite claiming to be the world's largest political party, the BJP seeks ideologically contrarian outsiders to join its pantheon to ensure a third term for the globally most popular leader. However, political pundits are busy dissecting the fallout of the Maharashtra maelstrom on other parties. The possible questions being asked are:

FILE PHOTO

1. Can it derail the Opposition coadunation? Unlikely. None of the leaders engaged in Operation BJP Hatao has shown signs of switching sides to the ruling monolith. Individuals with patent ideologies run all regional parties. They are unlikely to break ranks. Their resolve to forge unity would be strengthened, not weakened. Moreover, they have the advantage of not facing mutual challenges in their fiefdoms. In major states like UP, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Opposition will put up a better fight than ever before. In all the southern states barring Karnataka, the BJP hasn't been able to create a charismatic local leader and is toast without RSS margarine. Its relations with local parties like the AIADMK aren't yielding any major dividends. Its flirtations with celebrities in Kerala have failed to get it any seat in the Lok Sabha.

2. How would the Pawar Play affect the Congress party? It is perhaps for the first time after almost a decade that it is sitting pretty since the BJP's focus has shifted to small parties, which had been the Grand Old Party's nemesis in the past. Buoyed by its victory in Karnataka, it looks forward to major gains in the upcoming state elections. Since the BJP is unable to wean away any of its leaders in the poll-bound states, the GOP seems to be more united than before. It has resolved internecine feuds in Chhattisgarh and other states. With his new hirsute makeover, Rahul Gandhi appears more visible and credible than some years ago. The Congress has another advantage in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal, Telangana, etc., where its fight is against either the BJP or a local outfit. Since it is the only other national party with a footprint in almost every district, it stands to benefit from the marginalisation of territorial teams. Despite its weaknesses and infirmities, it still possesses a pervasive organisation, leadership and an alternative agenda for governance.

3. Will the Maharashtra Mayhem ensure a third term for the BJP at the Centre? With 48 MPs, the state is India's second largest after Uttar Pradesh. Only by successfully eroding vote banks there through defections and destruction can the Lotus League hope to win 41 seats again. But if it nets only leaders and not votes, the state would be the weathercock indicating setbacks for BJP. It has to repeat its strike rate of almost 100 per cent in nearly ten states, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, MP and Karnataka. Moreover, party pessimists feel that open invitation to outsiders indicates that the leadership is not confident of winning an absolute majority on its own.

With the Lok Sabha elections barely ten months away, expect unimaginable political war games in which AI will dominate the personalities and the policies with machinations and mirages. But contrary to the general perception, Operation Maharashtra is more likely to improve the Opposition Unity Index than weaken it. With many disgruntled elements leaving the Opposition ranks, there will be more cohesiveness and collaboration in finding the gold at the end of the new rainbow coloured BJP. Nevertheless, the algorithm of victory for the saffron supercomputer needs a new code and conduct.

OVERHAUL THAT AVIATION INDUSTRY NEEDS

OPINION

ANURADHA GOYAL
Author and founder of IndiTales
(Tweets @anuradhagoyal)

SOCIAL media is full of airline woes – unreasonable fares, no refunds, overpriced food, cancelled flights and an attempt to sell every possible seat and anything that can be commoditised. Buying a ticket does not guarantee a flight, seat, or class you booked. At the same time, airlines are not making great profits.

Flying has changed greatly in the last few decades, from being an elite privilege to mass transportation, just like buses and trains. If the number of airports and airport capacity has multiplied in the last decade, the number of air travellers has increased several times.

Swanky new airports are more crowded than bus or railway stations. Taking a flight means standing in queue after queue, from getting into the airport to getting out. Besides going through the mandatory security screening, you must prove your identity at multiple points. Sometimes, I must keep proving that I am not an imposter or a wanted criminal just for using premium public transportation.

Airways as a mode of transportation have moved to mass transportation, but the aviation processes continue to be where they were when a handful of flights existed. In its limited use, technology adaptation has offloaded many tasks to passengers, like buying tickets, web check-in and printing boarding passes.

Why do we need such an elaborate process of Check-In? The fact that I bought a ticket after giving my name and paying for it should be good enough for me to land at the airport and board the flight. What is the difference between a ticket and a boarding pass? Almost none. The legacy of check-in goes back to when airline tickets used to be flexible with a change of dates. Without digital updates, you needed an additional document to account for the actual departures. Today, it is just a process airlines use to sell additional services. The fact that web check-in is mandatory means it can be automated even if ticket details have been modified.

Now the only check you need to do is that I am indeed the person holding the ticket. That check is anyway done at the airport entry. Can we avoid repeating it at the check-in/baggage drop counter again? Yes. This may require the airline's desk and the security teams at the entry point to work in sync or trust the check done earlier.

We may need to redesign and re-organise airports. What if the entry point itself is the check-in/baggage drop point eliminating many processes? Let the extra people hang out on the premises till they have yet to check-in.

Airport security processes have been eased only to the point that you do not have a baggage tag, and no stamping is done on your boarding passes or a separate line for DigiYatra users. The requirement to put everything in huge trays is a pain, especially if the travellers are elderly or unwell. The help of any kind is missing or available at a cost.

New-age travel needs include carrying at least one phone plus charger, and a fair percentage of travellers carry 3-4 electronic gadgets. The processes need to accommodate these common requirements seamlessly. Either technology or common-sense approaches need an introduction to avoiding unpacking and packing all the gadgets at two ends of the scanner. This is the most chaotic part of the drill on a busy day.

> Ticket pricing needs to be more transparent with each route's upper limits. Manipulation of the price using cookies is unethical

Individual scanning of each traveller is embarrassing. Wonder why we need it for a flight when we walk into far more crowded railway stations. Why do authorities think air travellers, who cannot even run away mid-air, are a bigger risk than train or bus travellers? Some precautions may be required for international travel, but for domestic travel, flights are the same as other modes of transportation.

Aerobridge usage needs to improve even at the cost of commercial dynamics. The turnaround time of a flight is far lower with Aerobridge, and customer hassles are far lesser. Standing in queue to board the bus and then the flight while holding your bags is a pain. Sequential boarding is simply impossible with buses ferrying to aircraft.

Once we understand aviation as mass transportation, we must bring the prices of the basic items sold at airports to the mass levels. Isn't this why there are long queues at the complimentary lounges? Should the authorities not have a parallel of a canteen, as it used to be once upon a time to serve basic chai and meals? If they are operational, most outlets will go out of business. The empty chairs, anyway, indicate little business.

Ticket pricing needs to be more transparent with each route's upper limits. Manipulation of the price using cookies is unethical.

The pre- and post-flight times should reduce drastically. At current levels, short-haul flights are meaningless. In Bengaluru, we spend at least four hours before take-off and a similar time after landing-- when the flights are on time. Automated messages from airlines add to the stress. What is the point of creating world-class terminals if they are not linked to local transportation, as in the case of T2 in Bengaluru?

I wish railways provide good trains for distances up to 600 km and between key cities, reducing the need for short flights. Until then, the aviation industry will look to overhaul its processes for the changed nature of aviation.

QUOTE CORNER

We did really well, all the credit to the boys for not giving up despite going one goal down. That was when we were weakest. We got the equaliser. Kuwait then tried to hang on and win the game on penalties but once it goes there it is anyone's game

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Goalkeeper, Indian football team

There should be a public conversations app with 1 billion-plus people on it. Twitter has had the opportunity to do this but hasn't nailed it. Hopefully we (Threads) will

Mark Zuckerberg, CEO Meta Platforms

It is infinitely preferable to be attacked by strangers on Twitter, than indulge in the false happiness of hide-the-pain Instagram

Elon Musk, Chairperson, Twitter

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Anti-defection overhaul

Apropos of Maharashtra Matrix: Anti-Defection Law Needs Full Overhaul' (July 8). The call made in the editorial to completely overhaul the anti-defection law is timely. However, a lasting solution to stop elected representatives from defecting to another party lies not only in providing legal and constitutional curbs but also in leaders of political parties ensuring internal party democracy and dialogue and promoting avenues for the freedom and growth of their members.

N Rama Rao, Chennai

Prophetic Churchill

Apropos your editorial, it is next to impossible to bring out any qualitative changes as long as the probity and integrity of our political lot remains as it is. Any rejig in the existing laws, needs an adjudicator in order to decide what is just, but if the adjudicator is biased, where is the remedy. When I was young my blood boiled after reading the prophecy of Winston Churchill about the likely course of events in our democracy. Now as an old man I salute his genius.

V G R Swamy, email

Cop suicide

Shocking to know that bold, dynamic and successful DIG, Vijaykumar, took the extreme step of suicide. No doubt top police officers claim that he took this extreme step due to medical reasons, but that is flimsy. We feel there is something serious which has been eating his peace of mind for long. The government must order a probe into the suicide.

Capt N Viswanathan, Coimbatore

Smartphone addiction

Today, many children are the victims of smart phones, as they don't use it for positive benefits but instead use it for visiting sites that show violent and immoral videos. Unfortunately, this leads to a number of serious mental and psychological problems for children. Hence, I request parents to make their children aware of using these mobile phones for good purposes only like online studies, etc.

Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

Art doyen

In the passing away of Artist Namboodiri we have lost one of the doyens of art. The prefix "Artist" to his name is enough testimony to the maestro's mastery of his passion which gave life to many characters through his numerous works. We will certainly miss him.

C M Umanath, Calicut

UCC view

Regrouping of opposition is not happening not because of lack of leadership, but their inability to forge an alternative discourse on UCC. Until any one among them is able produce what he /she thinks is an improved version of the code, the opposition will continue to present the picture of a capsized apple cart.

T S Rao, Bengaluru

Pawar's problems

The saying that a man who lives by the sword will die by the sword is proving to be right in case of Sharad Pawar. He is the politician who led rebellions many times in Congress to bolster his political growth. He is now feeling the heat of rebellion in his own NCP. No sympathy is needed for Sharad Pawar for his current low.

Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao, Vijayawada

Joint missions

The Chandrayaan-3 mission costs Rs. 615 crore to India. A huge expenditure for any nation (not just India). Hence joint missions of space sound meaningful, economical, optimal, almost accidents- free, almost error-free in this expensive world. Many nations joined hands to set up ISS (International Space Station), a space lab in the sky, to study the properties of sun. Why limit it only for ISS? Have "joint missions" for all types of space missions. This spreads team spirit, harmony and friendship too in the world.

P V Srinivas Sreelekha, Secunderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis

It is truly a victory for our Constitution and Democracy that a woman from poor family and tribal community has become the Hon'ble President in India's Amrit Kaal!

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh

The number of lions in 'Etawah Lion Safari' is continuously increasing. The UP government should increase the economic development of this region by opening this international level safari

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh

Those who are openly threatening opposition leaders with ED-CBI raids, when will they find time to rein in their own network of fraudsters?

Sedition law needs re-examination: Ex-SC judge

Centre can define parameters under which law can apply, so people know their limits, says Justice Ajay Rastogi (Retd)

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

AMID a debate over the sedition law in the country, former Supreme Court Justice Ajay Rastogi says the law needs to be re-examined.

In an interview with this newspaper, Rastogi, who retired as the Supreme Court's fourth seniormost judge last month, said the government can make the provision elaborate and clarify the parameters within which the sedition law can be invoked.

Emphasizing the fact that people under the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression can criticise the government, he said every criticism is not sedition. "Section 124A (sedition) was introduced in the statute during the colonial time. After 20 years of the amendment, in 1891, the matter came up and no case was ever instituted. Were the people not aware at that time?" asked Justice Rastogi.

After 1891, there was an SC judgment in 1962, the Kedar Nath ruling. "Proceeding from 1962 to 2023, amendments have been made and the thought process has changed. Our fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression has now got its own foundation, which did not exist earlier," he said.

> **The question arises, when the provision was the same in the last 200 years, what prompted in putting the sedition law so prominent in the shortest period? Under their fundamental rights, people are concerned to know how the government is functioning. People might make loose comments also but the question is whether in every matter the law must be invoked.**
>
> Ajay Rastogi, Former SC judge

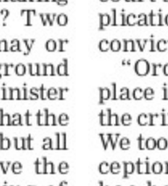
Referring to data on cases against persons under the sedition law, the judge said, "Experience shows that in 2022, 800 matters were registered but 13,000-plus people were implicated in these cases. The question is when the provision was the same in 200 years, what prompted in putting the sedition law so prominently in the shortest period?" he asked.

Under the fundamental rights and with heightened awareness, people want to know how the government is functioning, he said. "People might make loose comments also, but the question is whether in every such case, the law should be invoked," he said.

"The time has come for the government to add a proviso as to what the parameters could be for which the law can be invoked. People should know in a transparent manner their boundaries, within which one has to proceed to exercise the right to free speech and expression," said Rastogi, adding that the Law Commission has given its report and that may also be taken into consideration.

Justice Rastogi was also a part of the collegium that appointed judges to higher judiciary, which he calls a transparent system. He said the presence of "mere aberrations in the system", besides reservations in the government over some appointments of judges, cannot be the ground to argue against the collegium.

The former judge said, "In the collegium system, it is the CJI and four senior judges who work in tandem for the betterment of the institution. If we were to put the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) in place, they said there would be the CJI, two senior judges, two members nominated by a committee of PM, CJI and Leader of Opposition. These persons with their experience, knowledge and background had to take a decision to nominate.



"If five collegium members make a recommendation or NJAC members make a recommendation, is anything different in making the recommendations? Two nominated members may or may not have the background of the system. The law minister has the background of what the litigants' problems are but all ministers may not have the knowledge of the working of judges. We are not examining ground realities but we are examining selection among the lawyers who are to be made judges and the judges who have the potential to come to this court (SC)," he said.

Speaking on the collegium's move of making public objections raised by Research and Analysis Wing and Intelligence Bureau for the elevation of candidates as high court judges, the judge said that people should know why recommendations are made.

On the release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, the judge wondered how this perception arose that SC's order resulted in their release. "I don't know how this perception grew. The matter before us came only on a different issue. We were examining if the application for remission was to be filed in Gujarat or Bombay. The court's judgment was that application is to be filed where the conviction was made.

"Ordinarily, a trial takes place in the same place where the crime has been committed. We took a call since it is an exceptional case where the trial has been transferred. So we said no, the State of Gujarat will take a call. The date of conviction is a crucial day on which policy has to be considered," he said.

AJIT PAWAR

FROM PAWAR BRAKE TO PAWAR STEERING

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

SOURAV ROY

AJIT Pawar appears to be a man in a hurry. At 63, he reckons it's time he gets to the top. No longer can number two positions satiate his will to power. Deputy party chief, deputy chief minister—all that elicits a strange ennui in him. Been there, done that...the present is only a passing moment.

His father Anantrao Pawar, who passed away while Ajit was in his late teens, used to work for renowned filmmaker V Shantaram. But his own life bent towards politics rather than the arts. For tutelage, he got the best in the business—uncle and role model Sharad Pawar. Now 83, Pawar Sr had then just become Maharashtra's youngest chief minister at age 38. He handheld the nephew through his apprenticeship, and Ajit grew to become the director of cooperative sugar mills, then chairman of the Pune District Cooperative Bank and finally, in 1991, the elected MP from Baramati even as his uncle took charge of the Defence Ministry in the PV Narasimha Rao government.

Over the years, uncle and nephew came to exhibit different personas. But that difference was a thin veneer. If politics makes strange bedfellows, both have readily acquiesced in that. One created a coalition of unusual suspects—his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) coaxed even the Congress into a partnership Bal Thackeray's son, Uddhav. The other has now joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The irony is only that they have fallen apart in following the same credo.

NEWSMAKER

Pawar Sr had broken off from the Congress and formed the Nationalist Congress Party in 1999. Its very existence was founded on retaining tactical flexibility and higher bargaining power within the fluid template of coalition politics. Now, in that same spirit, Ajit has challenged his uncle's grip over the party and claimed its leadership. Pawar seemed to have had an inkling about his nephew's intentions but lulled everyone, perhaps even himself, into believing it wouldn't happen. But it did, on June 30, heralding a set of events that threaten to unravel a whole national alternative, just months before the general election.

As a public figure, Ajit exhibits a duality. He can be gruff and crude in self-injurious ways. In 2013, he ridiculed a two-month-long protest by a farmer who was demanding dam water for his parched land. "There is this person from Solapur, sitting on hunger strike for 55 days, demanding that water be released from the dam. But where are we going to get water from? Should we urinate into the reservoir? We are not getting water to drink, even urine is not coming easily," Ajit had joked at a rally near Pune. He apologised profusely the next day, but the redemption was never as complete as the infamy.

And he was no novice. Even before his present stint, he has been deputy CM on six different occasions: once under Vilasrao Deshmukh, twice under Ashok Chavan, then stints under Prithviraj Chavan and Uddhav Thackeray and once for a mere 80 hours under Devendra Fadnavis. He is now a deputy to Eknath Shinde, who was his junior in the Uddhav Thackeray government.

But Ajit also respects time like perhaps no one in Maharashtra: he is available for people from 7 am to 10 pm without fail. If Ajit Pawar gives an appointment, he never misses it even by seconds.

Time is what was hanging heavy, finally. His uncle is sometimes derided as the perennial prime minister-in-waiting, for whom now it seems too late. Ajit feels he too is getting old, and could fall shy of the chief minister's post if he did not try something bold. The Supriya Sule factor sharpened his anxiety. His cousin sister and her coterie had started dominating intra-party affairs, so much so that Ajit was unable to appoint district and taluka presidents.

His immediate family was another key reason behind his mutiny. His 33-year-old foreign-returned son, Parth Pawar, had lost badly in the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Mawal against the Shiv Sena. Meanwhile, another grand-nephew of Pawar Sr, Rohit Pawar, had been successful in his very first foray—getting elected as MLA from Parner—and had become a shadow of Sharad Pawar. Many futures, then, had to be secured. With space for him beginning to shrink, the path he has chosen was the only option before him.

India-Africa free trade agreement in making, says EAM Jaishankar

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

INDIA has fairly substantial presence in Africa and trade and investments in the continent is increasing. It is for the same reason that India is looking at a Pan-Africa Free Trade Agreement.

"India's trade is $98 billion with Africa. India's investments are $75 billion, and we are expecting both this trade and investments in Africa to grow, so there is a pan-African larger continental Free Trade arrangement in the making. As it unfolds, I think it makes it easier to both trade with Africa and invest in Africa," said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while addressing the Indian diaspora in Tanzania.

It may be recalled that less than a month ago, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal after interacting with 15 Aambassadors from the African region had said India was open to FTA with Africa as a whole or with individual countries.

"India and Africa share remarkable friendship across decades and have the potential of becoming the powerhouse of the future. India would act as a trusted partner to expand trade, commerce, business, investment and opportunities with Africa," Goyal had said in June.

Meanwhile, Africa is becoming the second-largest recipient of credit from India. 42 African nations have received about $32 billion which translates into a little less than 40 per cent of all credit extended by India during the last decade. India is trying to catch up with China which has a deep imprint across Africa primarily through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

> **India's trade is $98 billion with Africa. India's investments are $75 billion. We expect both this trade and investments in Africa to grow, so there is a pan-African larger continental Free Trade arrangement in the making. As it unfolds, I think it makes it easier to both trade with Africa and invest in Africa**
>
> Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

India finds a unified market in Africa but unified markets still require points of entry, regional hubs. That is why it is important for India to be connected with countries within Africa individually too.

India has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing the first IIT campus in Zanzibar.

Armed forces draw proposal to absorb 50% more agniveers

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE ambitious Agnipath scheme might see some changes as the armed forces are mulling ways to obviate problems that may arise in the future. These problems, among the many, include the decline in numbers of personnel at the soldiers levels due to the restricted number of recruitments planned up till 2026.

The proposal being worked out, said the sources, includes raising the percentage of Agniveers getting permanently absorbed to 50 per cent. Another issue that is being looked into is in inducting eligible candidates for technical streams such as aviation, engineering, electronic and similar trades.

"The cap in the maximum recruitment age to 21 years is leaving a smaller pool of eligible candidates. Thus, the proposal is to raise this to 23 years so that we can get the youth passing out of polytechnic institutions," said sources.

The eligibility age is in the range of 17.5 to 21 years and the enrolment is done in various categories and trades, including the technical ones.

Raising the recruitment numbers also figure in the proposal. Otherwise, it will lead to dearth in numbers at the soldier-level, which will take years to complete. Between 2022 and 2026, around 1.75 lakh Agniveers are expected to be recruited.

The aim of the proposals is "to make up for the decline in a planned manner. Otherwise, it might turn into bigger problems, functional and operational," sources said.

As per Lieutenant General Anil Puri, the then additional secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) of the Ministry of Defence, the intake of Agniveers will go up to 1.25 lakh in the near future and will not remain at 46,000, which is the present figure. "In next four to five years, our intake (of soldiers) will be 50,000-60,000 and will increase to 90,000-1 lakh subsequently. We've started small at 46,000 to analyse the scheme... and to build up infrastructure capacity," Puri had said in June 2022. DMA looks after training and staffing.

The government had, in December 2021, informed the Parliament that the shortage in the Army stood at 1,04,053 personnel, 12,431 in the Navy and 5,471 in the Air Force. It takes around 1.5 years to select and train a candidate.

The solution for the shortage in manpower needs attention, as tension persists along the Line of Actual Control with heightened deployment along the region. The Ministry of Defence is empowered to make amendments or even change the provisions of the new recruiting scheme Agniveer, which with time will be found not suitable, the source explained.

The MoD will not be required to wait for the Cabinet approval, which in most other cases is needed, the source added.

Shortage of personnel an issue

The shortage of personnel in the Army stood at **1,04,053,** in the Navy at **12,431,** and in the Air Force at **5,471.** It takes around 1.5 years to select and train a candidate

In the first year, recruitment under Agnipath was 40,000 in Army, 3,000 in Airforce and

3,000 IN NAVY

The proposal includes raising permanent induction of Agniveers to 50 per cent from

25 PER CENT

Centre slashes AC chair car fare by 25%, Vande Bharat passengers to gain

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE Ministry of Railways has announced it will slash fares of AC chair cars and executive classes by up to 25% on the basic fare for one year.

The discount on the basic fare of AC chair cars and executive classes of all trains, including Anubhuti and the Vista dome coaches, has been implemented depending on occupancy.

On Saturday, the Railway Board said the fares will also depend on competitive modes of transport.

The decision is aimed at ensuring maximum utilisation of the accommodation capacity in AC chair and executive coaches of trains running with the coaches of AC and non-AC chair cars and the Vistadome coaches on various routes.

DISCOUNT TO COME INTO EFFECT SOON

Rlys says the objective is to optimize utilisation of accommodation

The discount is in immediate effect. However, no refund of fare will be admissible for already booked passengers

SCHEME WILL APPLY IN AC CHAIR CAR AND EXEC CLASSES OF ALL TRAINS, INCLUDING VANDE BHARAT

Rlys says trains having classes with occupancy less than **50%** during the last 30 days shall be taken into consideration

Discount fare may be given for the entire duration or part duration or month-wise based on the demand pattern

"The element of discount will be on the basic fares but other charges as applicable shall be levied separately", said the railways.

The trains having classes with occupancy less than 50% (either end-to-end or in some specified sections) during the last 30 days will be taken into consideration"

The railways has also made it clear that no refund of fare will be admissible for already booked passengers." But in case of those trains where a flexi fare scheme is applicable in a particular class and the occupancy is poor, the flexi fare scheme may be withdrawn initially as a measure to increase the occupancy", the railways said.

UCC to be decisive in tribal-dominated states

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

WITH state elections around the corner, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is likely to decide the fate of the main political parties in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. As the debate around the common law gathers steam, various tribal bodies in all these states have come out in strong opposition to the legislation, saying it will infringe upon the customs and traditions of the community, which are safeguarded by constitutional provisions.

While the Mizoram assembly adopted a resolution opposing any move to implement the UCC, tribal bodies in other states have pointed out that the communities are protected by the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

While BJP is trying to contain the damage by sending out signals that the tribal communities in certain states will be excluded from the ambit of the legislation, the Congress senses an opportunity, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram, where it is looking to snatch power from the saffron party.

For the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in Madhya Pradesh, the backlash from tribal outfits on UCC will be a cause for worry as the state has 47 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes. In the 2018 assembly election, the party managed to secure only 16 seats, a sharp fall from 31 seats in 2013. With 21.5 per cent, the state accounts for the largest tribal population in the country. Though Congress is yet to pronounce a clear stand on UCC, a state unit leader told the paper that the row on UCC will benefit the party and it will capitalise its campaign on the issue.

Speaking to this paper, a BJP functionary said the party has adopted a set of damage control measures to minimise any dent in its electoral prospects.

The leader further said the government may tweak the legislation to exempt various tribal communities from the ambit of the law. Signaling the Centre's willingness to make exceptions for tribals, Union Home Minister Amit Shah conveyed to a delegation of Nagaland leaders the Law Commission is considering the idea of excluding the Christian community and "some tribals" in the state from the UCC. The Naga leaders say UCC would dilute the provisions of Article 371A, guarantees special protection for the state. Tribal activists say Mizoram is also protected by Article 371G of the Constitution.

The BJP is also facing stiff opposition from tribal outfits from poll-bound states Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan which has a sizable population of tribes.

PILGRIMS STRANDED
Amarnath pilgrims stranded at the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam following the suspension of the Yatra due to inclement weather have urged authorities to evacuate them.

02 SOLDIERS FEARED DROWNED IN J-K'S POONCH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	28	Mumbai	30	27
Bhopal	31	25	Panaji	30	27
Jaipur	32	27	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	36	29	Lucknow	31	27
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	31	14	Chandigarh	35	26

■ In poll-bound Rajasthan, PM targets Gehlot on corruption, infighting ■ In MP, Jyotiraditya enters Digvijaya constituency along with CM

PM: Gehlot govt a 'shop of loot' in 'market of lies'

The Congress' defeat in Rajasthan is so certain that the government has already entered 'bye-bye mode'. Some ministers and legislators have vacated their government houses
Narendra Modi, PM

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress in Rajasthan at his Bikaner rally on Saturday. He targeted the party over corruption.

He alleged Congress means a '*loot ki dukan*' (shop of loot) in a '*jhoot ka bazar*' (market of lies). It was a counter to Rahul Gandhi's famous phrase of opening a 'mohabbat ki dukan' (shop of love) in a 'nafrat ka bazaar' (market of hate).

Targeting the Gehlot government, he said while the Centre sends a lot of assistance to the state, the Gehlot government is "so steeped in corruption that those benefits do not reach the people of the state. Emphasising the need of a 'double-engine' government in Rajasthan, he particularly targeted the Gehlot government over 'paper leak' which the PM claimed "has become an industry in Rajasthan."

PM Modi also slammed the Congress infighting which he claimed is symptomatic of the deep corruption that the Rajasthan government is steeped in over the past four-and-a-half years.

The PM claimed that "one faction has been given full freedom to loot so that its leaders don't move over to the other faction" — a clear allusion to the factional feud between loyalists of CM Ashok Gehlot and his former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot.

Claiming that the Rajasthan government has caused significant harm to

the state in the last four years, PM Modi also asserted that the Congress party is aware of its impending defeat, which is why its leaders have begun to vacate government bungalows.

He ridiculed the Gehlot government, remarking, "The Congress' defeat in Rajasthan is so certain that the government has already entered 'bye-bye mode'. I have been informed that some ministers and legislators have vacated their government accommodations and returned to their personal residences. Only Congress leaders can display such confidence in their own defeat."

The Congress has shown little concern for Rajasthan's issues and the problems faced by its citizens. The BJP's plan to ensure drinking water for every household has become a source of trouble for the Congress government. Referring to the developmental work by the Centre in Rajasthan, PM Modi expressed, "We are focusing on upgrading the state's connectivity infrastructure."

PM cites paper leaks

Emphasising the need of a 'double-engine' government in Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi particularly targeted the Ashok Gehlot government over 'paper leak' which the PM claimed "has become an industry in Rajasthan."

Chouhan, Scindia walk in Digvijaya turf with sops

Since 1977, just one family has been grinding its mill in Raghogarh. While the river of development has been flowing across the state since BJP assumed power
Jyotiraditya Scindia, union minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

WHILE former chief minister and current Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh is working at rebuilding the Congress in 66 most difficult seats of the poll-bound state, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia were in the ex-CM's pocket-borough Raghogarh assembly constituency of Guna district on Saturday.

Addressing a gathering of women under the ambitious ₹1,000 per month financial assistance CM Ladli Behana Yojana, in Raghogarh assembly constituency of Guna district, the CM e-dedicated and laid the foundation stone of development works worth ₹134.12 crore.

The CM dedicated six development works worth ₹7.40 crore and laid foundation of 11 development works costing ₹43.86 crore for the Raghogarh assembly constituency alone. He also performed bhoomi-pujan of 59 development works costing 82.86 crore for the neighbouring Chachoura assembly constituency.

While the Raghogarh seat is presently represented by Digvijaya Singh's ex-minister and sitting Congress MLA son Jaivardhan Singh, the Chachoura seat is held by the ex-CM's young brother Lakshman Singh.

Addressing the gathering, the CM assured that the government will leave no stone unturned in the development

of Raghogarh. "Before 2003, there was no road, no electricity and no drinking water in Raghogarh. The condition of the roads was also very bad. After 2003, we have undertaken many development works here and we will not let the pace stop," the CM said.

Addressing the gathering, union minister and former Guna MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, tore into the former CM Digvijaya Singh and son Jaivardhan Singh. "Since 1977, just one family has been grinding its mill in Raghogarh. While the river of development has been flowing forward across the state since BJP assumed power in 2003, the river of development still flows backwards in Raghogarh. There is a crisis of basic amenities in Raghogarh, but this gathering today symbolizes the start of new history here," Scindia said.

Attacking the father-son duo, Scindia said, "Those who've ruled Raghogarh since decades, aren't bothered about its development. They are bothered about other states and countries."

₹43.86 cr for Guna

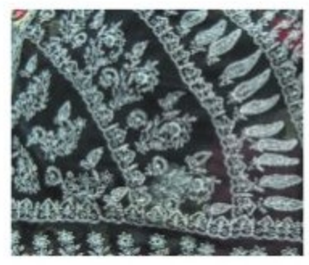
The CM Chouhan dedicated six development works worth `7.40 cr and laid foundation for about 11 development works costing `43.86 cr for the Raghogarh assembly constituency, a turf of senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh
namita.bajpai@newindianexpress.com

IIM-Indore to power Lucknow chikankari

Lucknow's famous chikankari is set to get a major marketing boost as the Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IIM-Indore) has signed an MoU with the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) to provide its inputs in designing, marketing and branding strategy for the art form to make it economically viable. IIM-I signed another MoU with the city administration to help it with the Smart City Project. Chikan comes under One District One Product (ODOP) category representing Lucknow. "IIM-Indore experts will assist in product development," said a district administration official.



Teacher axed for cutting students' hair

A teacher of a private school in Noida was dismissed after parents of girls, whose hair she allegedly cut, staged a large-scale protest. Police said she "symbolically" cut the hair of some students as a disciplinary act. "Police were informed about the matter and officials from the local police station reached the school in Sector 168. The school management and parents of around 12 students spoke on the matter. The school then decided to terminate the services of the teacher immediately," a senior cop said, adding, "As a disciplinary in-charge, she had been asking the students to get their hair trimmed, but in vain. So, she herself cut their hair to discipline them."

SBSP chief flip-flops again on Oppn unity

A day after almost hinting that he was going back to the NDA by announcing a rally in Patna along with the BJP leaders, SBSP chief Om Prakash came out with a formula on how the Opposition camp can win 70 seats in UP in the big battle of ballots in 2024. Talking to reporters in Azamgarh recently, Rajbhar said that if Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal, Congress and JD (U) come together with his own party in the same camp, the alliance had the chances to win more than 70 seats in the state. Addressing workers at the rally in Azamgarh, he said he will reveal which party he will join after October 7.

GUJARAT

ATS busts ISI surveillance network, 1 held

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) eliminated a component of Pakistan's ISI surveillance network in the state on Saturday. They also nabbed one person in Kutch for leaking information on BSF intelligence.

The individual has been identified as Nilesh Badiya. According to early findings, Nilesh made contact with an internet profile called Aditi. He later sent several crucial BSF-related documents to Pakistan in hopes of receiving money in return.

"Interrogation revealed that Baliya, who has been working as a peon in the electrical department of CPW at BSF Battalion 59 headquarters at Bhuj for the past five years, had made contact with a Pakistani woman agent named Aditi Tiwari via WhatsApp in January 2023," ATS officials said.

"Nilesh told Aditi that he works as a computer operator in the BSF office, so the Pakistani female agent asked him to send sensitive information related to the BSF, and if the information sent is useful, he will receive good money in return," an official said.

LENDING A HELPING HAND
Rahul Gandhi plants paddy saplings with farmers at a farm in Sonipat district on Saturday. He was seen driving a tractor and talking to farmers at the fields in Baroda and Madina | PTI

Manipur govt told to lift ban on internet

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Manipur High Court has directed the state government to partially lift the ban on internet even as the ethnic violence continued.

"...The state government...is directed to lift the ban on providing internet service through Internet Lease Line throughout the whole State after ensuring that all the stakeholders have complied with the safeguards given by the Expert Committee," a division bench of Justices Ahanthem Bimol Singh and A Guneshwar Sharma said in an order issued on Friday.

"In the case of Fibre To The Home, lifting of the ban on providing internet service can be carried out by the Home Department on case to case basis..." the HC said.

Net services have remained suspended since May 3 when the violence broke out.

Meanwhile, two persons were injured while two vehicles were torched since Friday night. A farmer was hit by a bullet when he had gone to cultivate paddy at Phubala in Meitei-majority Bishnupur district on Saturday. In another incident, a teenager from Kwakta in the same district sustained splinter injuries when a mortar fired by the miscreants from the foothill area hit his house.

Was in talks with BJP, but didn't join hands with party: Sr Pawar

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

DAYS after the mutiny by his nephew Ajit Pawar, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday hit the road and addressed a public rally in Yeola – the constituency of Ajit Pawar faction's MLA Chhagan Bhujbal in Nasik district. Pawar publically extended an apology and accepted his error of judgment for fielding wrong people like Bhujbal.

He also clarified that he had talked with BJP for several times, but that does not mean they were joining hands with the BJP. He said in democracy, they do have dialogue with all parties that do not mean they are going with these people. Earlier Pawar junior had revealed that NCP planned to form a government with BJP but at the eleventh hour, Pawar senior backtracked.

Interestingly, after the Lok Sabha election in 2019, the sitting NCP Lok Sabha MP Udayan Raje Bhosale had left Sharad Pawar and joined BJP. Pawar in Lok Sabha bypoll campaign told Satara people that he made a mistake by fielding Raje and even apologised to the people. Raje badly lost against the NCP candidate.

The 83-year old Pawar left Mumbai in morning for Nasik.

On his way, many Pawar lovers welcomed him by giving garlands. While meeting people on his way, Pawar also got wet but this did not dampen his spirit.

He said he has not come to Yeola to criticise anyone but to put forth his side and current political situation in India. Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar and once close aides like Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse Patel left Pawar Sr and joined hands with the BJP. Pawar said that the Nasik district has a different history and legacy that always stood with secular and progressive ideology despite many odds.

"When Yashwantrao Chavan was called in Delhi and inducted as defense minister in Pandit Nehru's cabinet, Chavan got elected unopposed from Nasik. Therefore, I also decided to start rebuilding the party from Nasik only," Pawar said.

Speaker's notice to both Sena factions

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ALMOST two months after the Supreme Court directed Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar to take a call on the disqualification petitions filed by rival Shiv Sena factions within a reasonable time, the state legislature secretary finally issued show-cause notices to them.

The notices were served on 53 of the total 55 Shiv Sena MLAs in the state — 39 members of the Shiv Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray group. Both sides have accused each other of defying the party whip during the Speaker's election and the trust vote on July 3 and 4 respectively, seeking disqualification of the legislators from both sides. The Shinde faction did not include Aaditya Thackeray, son of Uddhav Thackeray, to the list of legislators they wanted disqualified. Lawmakers have been asked to explain their stand within seven days.

Centre yet to approve 21 hydro projects in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

DESPITE having immense resources available for electricity generation, power-starved Uttarakhand has received setback, with the Centre putting on hold the approval for 21 hydropower projects of 2,123.6 MW capacity.

With this, the state government's last hope rests on Prime Minister's Office (PMO),which will take a decision in this matter based on the report of the SC-set up expert body and the response of the ministries. About 40 new proposed hydropower projects in the state have been stalled for a long time.

A meeting was held at the PMO on Friday under the chairmanship of PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, to seek permission for construction of 21 projects.

"Out of 21 projects, there is no dispute on 11, the remaining 10 projects have also been approved by the expert body of

the Supreme Court," Sandeep Singhal, managing director of Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam told this newspaper. According to information received from departmental sources of the Energy Department, the Ministry of Power supported the proposal of Uttarakhand, but the Ministry of Jal Shakti has objected to it on many issues related to the flow of rivers."

State Energy Secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram said, "As of now, the PMO has considered all aspects and accordingly, the PMO will now take a decision on it." He gave positive indications of the construction of these projects.

UP mulls solar-powered fencing for agricultural fields

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE menace of stray cattle, which was a main poll plank in 2022 assembly elections, still persists to haunt the farmers in Uttar Pradesh. After making not so successful attempts to address the issue and Lok Sabha elections round the corner, now the Uttar Pradesh government is contemplating to resort to solar-powered fencing around farms to ward off stray animals.

Similarly, with an intent to curb the rising incidents of man-animal conflicts in buffer zones around tiger reserves, the UP forest department is planning to install solar powered fence along the outer boundary of the buffer zone.

The proposed move to fence the agricultural fields is believed to be cost-effective and will have electric fencing passing enough current to keep the stray cattle away from fields with no harm to them, said a senior official. The farmers would be provided with the equipment at subsidised rates.

As per the sources, the state government is planning to provide about 50 per cent funding for cluster-based fencing, while the rest will be borne by farmers. The proposal seems to be effective in saving the standing crops from the stray cattle as other tools including barbed and electric wires are banned since incidents of injury to animals were reported.

The solar powered fencing will have mild power of 10-12 watt. "With the ban on other alternatives, solar-charged fencing in other states like Rajasthan has been implemented successfully. In UP, the option of community fencing or cluster-based fencing, is under consideration. This will require the farmers to come together to install solar-charged fencing," said Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi.

It is mainly the fruit, vegetable and pulse crops that are destroyed by the stray animals and therefore the idea is to ensure that a group of farmers come together to create larger clusters to reduce the fencing cost, department official said.

On the other, to use the same strategy to keep the wild animals away from straying into villages bordering the buffer zone of tiger reserves, trials will begin by fencing the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) buffer zone. "Spots that have reported a number of incidents of man-animal conflict are being identified with the help of locals. These places shall be fenced first, and a review of the effort will be done in coming months," said aan official.

As per the forest officials, the solar fence of appropriate height will deliver a 'very light shock' to the animal trying to cross over thus keeping them away from entering the human territory.

Minimising man-animal conflicts

Move aims to curb the rising incidents of man-animal conflicts in buffer zones around tiger reserves

Move to fence the agricultural fields is believed to be cost-effective

THE FARMERS WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE EQUIPMENT AT SUBSIDISED RATES.

It will keep the wild animals away from straying into villages bordering the buffer zone

State government is planning to provide about **50 per cent** funding for cluster-based fencing

The solar powered fencing will have mild power of **10-12 watt**, the solar fence of appropriate height will deliver a 'very light shock'

Amid criticisms, Joe Biden defends decision of sending cluster bombs

US Prez says Ukraine is running out of ammo, cluster weapons will provide a temporary fix

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Friday defended what he said was a "difficult decision" to provide cluster munitions to Ukraine, a move the administration said was key to the fight and buttressed by Ukraine's promise to use the controversial bombs carefully.

"It took me a while to be convinced to do it," said Biden in a *CNN* interview. He added that he ultimately took the Defence Department's recommendation to provide the munitions and discussed the matter with allies and with lawmakers on the Hill. He said "the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition" and the cluster bombs will provide a temporary fix to help stop Russian tanks.

The move was met with divided reactions from Congress, as some Democrats criticised the plan while some Republicans backed it. It was hailed on Twitter by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who thanked Biden for "a timely, broad and much-needed defense aid package" that will "bring Ukraine closer to victory over the enemy, and democracy to victory over dictatorship."

Joe Biden, US President | AP

A new military aid package announced on Friday includes "dual-purpose improved conventional munitions," the Pentagon said in a statement, referring to cluster bombs.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan explained the decision by saying there is "a massive risk of civilian harm if Russian troops and tanks roll over Ukrainian positions and take more Ukrainian territory and subjugate more Ukrainian civilians because Ukraine does not have enough artillery."

Kyiv "has provided written assurances that it is going to use these in a very careful way," he said, noting that Ukraine's government "has every incentive to minimise risk to civilians, because it's their citizens."

Human Rights Watch said that "transferring these weapons would inevitably cause long-term suffering for civilians and undermine the international opprobrium of their use opposes." And Amnesty International said Biden's administration "must understand that any decision enabling the broader use of cluster bombs in this war will likely lead to one predictable outcome: the further death of civilians." *Agencies*

Zelenskyy hails army on 500th day of conflict

KYIV

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed "brave" Ukraine on the 500th day of Russia's invasion Saturday, as the war's toll mounted with eight deaths reported in Russian rocket fire.

Zelenskyy published on social media an undated video clip of a visit to Snake Island in the Black Sea—a symbol of Ukraine's defiance against Russia. "Today, we are on Snake Island, which will never be conquered by the occupiers, like the whole of Ukraine, because we are the country of the brave," he said. "I want to thank from here, from this place of victory, each of our soldiers for these 500 days," he said in the video, which showed him arriving on the island by boat.

"Let the freedom that all our heroes of different times wanted for Ukraine and that must be won right now be a tribute to all those who gave their lives for Ukraine," Zelenskyy said. "We will definitely win!" Intense battles continued to rage on Saturday in the country's east and south as Ukrainian forces pressed their attacks against Russian defences in the initial stages of their counteroffensive. *Agencies*

UK FIRST ALLY TO SHARE DISCOMFORT OVER USE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS IN UKRAINE

LONDON

PM Rishi Sunak said on Saturday Britain is part of a convention that "discourages" the use of cluster munitions, after Washington announced plans to send the controversial weapons to Ukraine. The United States drew sharp criticism from rights groups due to the danger unexploded bomblets pose even after a conflict has ended.

"The UK is signatory to a convention which prohibits the production or use of cluster munitions and discourages their use," Sunak said in televised remarks. "We will continue to do our part to support Ukraine against Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion. But we've done that by providing heavy battle tanks and most recently long-range weapons, and hopefully all countries can continue to support Ukraine," he added.

Sunak said "Russia's act of barbarism is causing untold suffering to millions of people" and "it's right that we collectively stand up to it." In total, 123 countries have signed the 2008 Oslo Convention banning the production, storage, sale and use of cluster munitions. Russia, Ukraine and the US are not signatories. *AFP*

DUTCH PM MEETS KING AFTER GOVT FALLS OVER MIGRATION

THE HAGUE

DUTCH PM Mark Rutte visited the king on Saturday to turn in the resignation of his four-party coalition and set the deeply divided Netherlands on track for a general election. King Willem-Alexander flew back from a family vacation in Greece to meet with Rutte, who drove to the palace for the meeting to explain the political crisis that toppled his administration.

Rutte declined to answer reporters' questions as he drove away from the meeting that lasted over an hour.

The vexed issue of reining in migration that has troubled countries across Europe for years was the final stumbling block that brought down Rutte's government Friday night, exposing the deep ideological differences between the four parties that made up the uneasy coalition.

"We are the party that can ensure a majority to significantly restrict the flow of asylum seekers," said Geert Wilders, leader of the anti-immigration Party for Freedom, who supported Rutte's first minority coalition 13 years ago, but also ultimately brought it down.

Opposition parties on the left also want to make the election about tackling problems they accuse Rutte of failing to adequately address—from climate change to a chronic housing shortage and the future of the nation's multibillion-euro (-dollar) agricultural sector. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

CIVIL SERVANTS URGED TO BE NEUTRAL

The Director-General of Regional Autonomy at the Indonesian Home Affairs Ministry Akmal Malik has called on civil servants and contract-based government employees to maintain their neutral stance in the 2024 general elections. "All civil servants and contract-based employees within the government must ensure neutrality during the 2024 elections," Malik told civil servants and contract-based employees on Saturday.

MAN GETS JAIL FOR ABUSING DAUGHTER

A 33-year-old man in Singapore was jailed for one year for ill-treating his 10-year-old stepdaughter. The man continued to physically abuse the child while being investigated for the offence. The first incident happened in 2019. The man lifted the girl up and threw her on the floor twice, causing her to sustain bruises on her elbow & lower back

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RO No.: 622 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 07-07-2023

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No: NIT- 21/EE(M)/MB-II/23-24
Name of work / Supply/Services: Annual/Capital Maintenance of Machine No 1,2,3,4 of Dharasu Power House for the Year 2023-24.
Estimated cost: Rs. 6,81,84,550/- only + GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 10.07.2023 from 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website: - 05.08.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in**
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E - Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-15-2023-2024
Dated: 07.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following works up to **14.00 hrs** on **31.07.2023.**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1	T-SG-36-I-15-2023-2024	Painting and other signaling residual works over Tiruchchirappalli Division

Item No.	Advertised Value	Earnest Money Deposit Amt	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in months
1	₹ 41.83 Lakhs	₹ 83,700/-	60 Days	31.07.2023 @ 14:00 hrs	Four Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

S Koreans protest release of Fukushima wastewater

SEOUL

HUNDREDS of people marched in South Korea's capital on Saturday demanding Japan scrap its plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant, as the head of the UN nuclear agency met with senior officials to discuss public concerns over foods safety.

The protests came a day after South Korea's government formally endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans, saying that the contamination levels of water pumped out from the plant would be within acceptable standards and wouldn't meaningfully affect South Korean seas as long as the plant's treatment systems work as designed.

Braving blistering summer heat and closely watched by police, the protesters walked in long lines through a commercial district in downtown Seoul, holding signs reading "We denounce the sea disposal of Fukushima's nuclear wastewater!" and "We oppose with our lives the sea discharge." The marches proceeded peacefully and there were no immediate reports of major clashes or injuries.

"Other than discharging the water into the sea, there is an option to store the water on their land, and there are other options being suggested," said Han Sang-jin, spokesperson of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. *AP*

Yellen appeals to China for support on climate change

MOSCOW

TREASURY Secretary Janet Yellen appealed to China on Saturday for cooperation on climate change and other global challenges and not to let disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

In a meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng, Yellen defended US restrictions on technology exports that rankle Beijing.

She said the two governments shouldn't let such disagreements disrupt thriving economic and financial relations.

We also face important global challenges, such as debt distress in emerging markets and developing countries and climate change," Yellen said. "We have a duty to both our own economies and to other countries to cooperate."

Yellen is one of a series of US officials who are due to visit Beijing as part of efforts to revive relations that are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes over technology, security, and Taiwan among other issues.

Yellen has received a warm welcome from leaders including Premier Li Qiang, the No. 2 figure in the ruling Communist Party, though they gave no sign they will change policies that irk Washington and other governments.

Also in a meeting on Saturday with Vice Premier He Lifeng, Yellen pointed to record bilateral trade last year as proof of just how intertwined they are.

"There is ample room for our firms to engage in trade and investment," she told He at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse.

"Where we have concerns about specific economic practices, we should and will communicate them directly."

Vice Premier He responded that Beijing regretted that "unexpected incidents" had derailed efforts to improve China-US ties following a meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping in November last year.

"There were some problems in the implementation of the consensus reached by the two heads of state," He Lifeng said in a statement. *Agencies*

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brides

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Your Guide to Spicy living
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Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
B.S.N.L. Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

O.A. NO. 1027/2022
Between:
AXIS BANK LTD., ...Applicant
And
SRI.VENKATESH C & OTHERS ...Defendants
To,
1. Sri. Venkatesh.C S/o Sri. Chowdanayaka, Aged About 43 years, No. 3717, 12th Cross, 2nd Floor, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore-560078, **Also at :** Sri. Venkatesh.C. EWS 506, 13th Cross, Kuvempunagar, Hassan-573201, **And also at :** Sri.Venkatesh.C, Eury India Private Limited, Formerly Known as Span Infotech Pvt. Ltd., Ground Floor, No.42, 27th Cross, Brigade Software Park 1, Banashankari, Bangalore-560070, **And Also at :** Sri.Venkatesh.C, No. 59/A, 2nd Floor, Krishnappa Naika, 10th Main, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Near VLCC, West of Chord Road, Bangalore-560086.
2. Smt. Bharathi.S, W/o Sri. Venkatesh.C, No.3717, 12th Cross, 2nd Floor, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore-560078, **Also at :** Smt. Bharathi.S. EWS 506, 13th Cross, Kuvempunagar, Hassan-573201, **And also at :** Smt. Bharathi.S., No. 59/A, 2nd Floor, Krishnappa Naika, 10th Main, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Near VLCC, West of Chord Road, Bangalore-560086.
3. S2 Homes, Represented by its Partners, Sri. Chethan Kumar.P & Somashekar Reddy, Having its registered office at No. 59, 3rd Main, BTM Ring Road, 1st Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore-560029.
SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the above Defendants for the recovery of sum of **Rs.88,30,407/-** (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Seven Only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendants are required to appear therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause on **29.09.2023 at 10:30 a.m.** as why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day **5th Day of July 2023.**
By order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar-1
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
Form-1A
(O V Rule 20)
IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE XLIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-44) AT BENGALURU
P & SC. No.305/2023
BETWEEN
1.Mrs. Sunita Prasad, Aged about 53 years, W/o Late Sri. Dhrub Narayan Prasad
2.Mrs.Sonali Prasad, Aged about 30 years, D/o Late Sri. Dhrub Narayan Prasad Represented by her mother & Duly constituted GPA holder Mrs. Sunita Prasad
3.Mr.Alok Prasad, Aged about 28 years, S/o Late Sri. Dhrub Narayan Prasad
4.Ms. Shilpi Prasad, Aged about 21 years, D/o Late Sri. Dhrub Narayan Prasad
All are residing at No.305, Vikas Paradigm, 1st Cross, Maria Street, Near Kensri School, Mariyannapalya, Bengaluru-560024
Petitioner No.2 is currently Residing at Apartment No.8111, 1500, Parkwood Circle, SE Atlanta, Georgia-30339 USA .....Petitioners
AND
NIL ...Respondent
Whereas, the petitioner No.1 is the wife and petitioner No.2, 3 & 4 are the children of deceased Late Sri.Dhrub Narayan Prasad. Said deceased Late Sri.Dhrub Narayan Prasad died on 12/01/2023 at Bengaluru. The petitioners above named have instituted the above petition for issuance of Succession Certificate in favour of Petitioners in respect of below mentioned schedule (petition schedule), hence the Public in General/Any interested person if they have any objection in this regard to show cause against the petition, is hereby notified to appear in person or by a pleader on the **17th day of August, 2023 at 11.00 A.M.,** failing which the petition will be disposed in accordance with law.
SCHEDULE
ITEM No.1 i.Amount in SBI Regular Savings Bank account, No.11448118151, Coffee Board Layout Branch, Bengaluru.
ITEM No.2. i.Amount in Public Provident fund account No.11448151700
ITEM No.3 i.Amount in Postal Life Insurance Policy No.NE-AP-WLA-36246-CS.
ITEM No.4 All the job related benefits, settlement of amounts, sums etc account of deceased Shri. Dhrub Narayan Prasad on account of his job HFA (Horticulture Farmer Assistant), agricultural department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, office of the Deputy Commissioner, WEST Kameng District, Bomdila.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 6th Day of July, 2023 at Bengaluru.
By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Petitioner
Shri. NAGARJUN.N, Advocate
No.248, 2nd Floor,
100 Feet Main Road,
HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar,
Bengaluru-560043

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
Take notice that IndusInd Bank Limited, has issued a notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("the Act"). The notice was duly sent to the addresses by Regd. Post with acknowledgement due which returned undelivered by post office. The contents of which are being published herewith as per the Section 13(2) of the Act read with Section 13(8) & 13(13) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the Borrowers, Guarantors, Securities, Outstanding Dues, Demand Notice Sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:
Name and Address of the Borrower : (1) M/s LK MED SUPPLIES, No. 18,Jaraganahalli (V), Kanakapura Road,Yelachenahalli, J.P Nagar 6th Phase, Karnataka- 560078. **(2) Mr. Jean Kamal,** No.118, Leyam Katha No.24/2, 4th Cross, M S Layout, Jarganahalli Village, UttarahalliHobli, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore- 560078.Phone- 9739987055. **(3) Mrs. Lakshmi Jean,** No.118, Leyam Katha No.24/2, 4th Cross, M S Layout, Jarganahalli Village, UttarahalliHobli, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560078. Phone-9742982255 calling upon them to repay the banks dues of **Rs.1,39,40,749.88 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Nine Lakhs Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine and Paisa Eighty Eight Only)** along with further interest as per sanctioned terms due as on **31-05-2023** and other costs, charges, expenses incurred within 60 days of the date of notice. The bank dues are secured by the following assets.
Description / Details of Facilities sanctioned

Sl.No.	Nature of Facility with Loan account Nos.	Amount (Rs.in lacs)
1.	GST Over Draft 656000000924	120.00
2.	WCTL GECL 570000032375	7.90
3.	WECTL GECL EXTN 1.0 589000002646	9.00
4.	Total	136.90

Details of Secured Assets (MORTGAGED PROPERTIES) : Mortgaged by way of exclusive first charge on the entire current assets of the borrower comprising inter alia of stocks of raw material, work in progress, finished goods, receivables, book debts and other current assets of the defendant No.1.
Schedule Property : Property of Mr. Jean Kamal GIFT Deed No. 8198/2019-2020 Dated 22-11-2019 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site no. 29, Khata No. 35/1, Present BBMP Khata No. 29/35/1, situated at Konanakunte Village, UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore, South Taluk, now situatedRushyashrunga Road, Konanakunte, BBMP Ward No. 196., Bangalore measuring East to West 43 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1290 Sq. ft. along with the building constructed thereon and bounded on the: East by: Property No. 28, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Property No. 30
Statement as on 31-05-2023

Particulars of Loan	Principal outstanding	Add : Interest Outstanding	Amount (Rupees)
Over Draft 656000000924	Rs.1,20,00,000	Rs.4,03,658	Rs. 1,24,03,658
WCTL GECL 570000032375	Rs.5,90,782.88	Rs.18,599	Rs. 6,09,381.88
WECTL GECL EXTN 1.0 589000002646	Rs.9,00,000	Rs.27,710	Rs. 9,27,710
		Total Outstanding	Rs. 1,39,40,749.88

Aggregate Outstanding amount as on **31.05.2023 is Rs.1,39,40,749.88 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Nine Lakhs Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine and Paisa Eighty Eight Only)** together with further interest at documented rate from **01.06.2023** to the date of payment and other costs.
Date : 21.06.2023
Place: HYDERABAD
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Ltd.

QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

EXPRESS READ

Columbia includes Sikhism in social studies

Washington: Over 49,000 students can now learn about Sikhism in the District of Columbia after the local education board voted in favour of new social studies standards that for the first time ever include the Sikh faith in the school curriculum. The District of Columbia has adopted new social studies standards. The new standards, voted on by the District of Columbia State Board of Education on June 21, will give approximately 49,800 students the opportunity to learn about the Sikh community. The new standards will be implemented in local schools starting from the 2024-2025 academic year. The Sikh Coalition, which worked with local education authorities on this issue, said DC joins 17 US states in including accurate information about Sikhs in their public school social studies standards.

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
B-450 **Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 10 /2023-24.**
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors Building works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work :- 04 Nos.
3. Nature of work :- Building work..
4. Class of contractor :- **'B', 'A' Class.**
5. Tender paper cost :- Rs.10000/- **(online)**
6. Available of bid document in the web site. :- **From 21.07.2023 to 17.30 Hours of 04.08.2023**
7. Date of opening of bid :- **Dt.05.08.2023 at 11.00 Hours.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Cuttack(R&B)Circle
OIPR-34012/11/0018/2324

TPCODL
TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(A Tata Power and Odisha Govt. Joint Venture)
2nd Floor, IDCO Tower, Janpath Bhubaneshwar, Odisha 751022, Odisha
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No: TPCODL/P&S/NIT/23-24/ 10
Bids are invited from eligible Bidders for the following tenders of Odisha DISCOMs, namely TPCODL/ TPNODL/TPWODL/TPSODL (JV of Tata Power & Odisha Govt.):

Sl. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Tender description
1	TPCODL/P&S/23-24 / 1000000397	Hiring of Agency for TPCODL Advertisement Services
2	TPCODL/P&S/23-24 / 1000000398	One Year RC for Supply of Lightening Arrester for TPCODL
3	TPCODL / CCG / 23-24 / 013	One Year RC for Supply of HT Cable of various sizes suitable for 11 KV & 33 KV at TPCODL, TPNODL & TPWODL
4	TPCODL / CCG / 23-24 / 018	One Year RC for 11kV and 33 KV Auto-Recloser and Sectionalizer for TPCODL, TPNODL & TPWODL.
5	TPCODL / CCG / 23-24 / 022	One Year RC for Supply of Various Capacity of Distribution Transformers at TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL & TPWODL
6	TPCODL / CCG / 23-24 / 024	One Year RCfor DR formation works for TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL & TPWODL.
7	TPCODL / CCG / 23-24 / 025	RC for 33 & 11 kV RMU for TPCODL, TPNODL&TPWODL.

For more details like bid due date, EMD, tender fee, bid opening date etc. of the Tenders, please visit "Tender" section TPCODL website https://www.tpcentralodisha.com. All tenders will be available on TPCODL website w.e.f. from Dtd. 08.07.2023. Future communication / corrigendum to tender documents, if any, shall be available on TPCODL website.

12 start-ups have been selected under Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge organised by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

RIL arm demerger record date Jul 20

RSIL to be renamed as Jio Financial Services, to get listed for trading on stock exchanges

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE country's richest billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries (RIL) on Saturday announced the record date for allotment of equity shares in the demerger plan of its financial services business in Reliance Strategic Investments (RSIL).

While the effective date of the demerger has been fixed as July 1, July 20 has been fixed as the record day for allocating shares of the new company, according to the company's stock exchange filing. RSIL will be renamed as Jio Financial Services (JFSL), which will be listed for trading on stock exchanges.

Veteran banker Hitesh Kumar Sethia will head the new entity as the MD and the CEO while Mukesh Ambnai's daughter Isha Ambani and former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi are among the directors appointed on the board of the demerged financial services unit. "The board has approved the appointment of Sethia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of RSIL for a period of 3 years; Appointment of Sethia is subject to the approval of members of the Company, the Reserve Bank of India and such other approvals as may be required," said RIL in a regulatory filing.

Sethia is a financial services executive with over two decades of experience across Europe, Asia (India & Greater China) and North America. He has spent most of his career at ICICI Bank.

Besides that, RIL on July 20 will determine the equity shareholders of the company entitled to receive the resulting company's new equity shares of RSIL. According to the scheme of things, Reliance Strategic Investments will allot one fully paid-up equity share of RSIL of face value of ₹10 each, for every one share of Reliance Industries as of the record date.

After the demerger, JFSL will acquire liquid assets to provide adequate regulatory capital for lending to consumers and merchants, and incubate other financial services verticals such as insurance, payments, digital broking, and asset management for at least the next 3 years of business operations.

The demerger, which will create fifth-largest financier in terms of capital and compete directly with the likes of Paytm and Bajaj Finance, will complement Reliance's consumer businesses, which include India's largest wireless operator with about 428 million users, top retail chain with over 17,000 stores.

According to brokerage BofA Securities, by separating financial services from the core business, Reliance appears to be keeping arm's length transactions from other entities, and in theory helping them better to attract strategic or JV partners who are keen only in the financial services arm - like what they did with Reliance Jio or tower InvIT.

> The board has approved the appointment of Sethia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of RSIL for a period of 3 years; Appointment of Sethia is subject to the approval of members of the Company, the Reserve Bank of India and such other approvals as may be required,"
>
> said RIL in a regulatory filing

Isha Ambani, ex-CAG Mehrishi appointed directors

Veteran banker Hitesh Kumar Sethia will head the new entity as the MD and the CEO while Mukesh Ambnai's daughter Isha Ambani and former CAG Rajiv Mehrishi are among the directors appointed on the board of the demerged financial services unit. Sethia is a financial services executive with over two decades of experience across Europe, Asia (India & Greater China) and North America

Tax dept to dispose of pending appeals over ₹50 cr in FY24

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

THE income tax department has set a target of disposing of 100% of appeals pending as of April 1, 2023, that involve demand of ₹50 crore and above during the current financial year.

In its annual action plan for financial year 2023-24, the department has instructed its officers to dispose of on priority the cases which have been set aside and restored to the Commissioners of Income tax (Appeal) by courts or IT Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).

The number of appeals related to direct taxes pending was 5.16 lakh at the end of March 31, 2023, which is 20,000 more than 4.96 lakh appeals a year ago.

Pendency in respect of appeals filed prior to April 1, 2020, was 2.82 lakh as of March 31, 2023.

The department has also instructed its officers to dispose of all appeals for which Form 5 has been issued under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme with a week of issue of Form 5.

Form 5 is issued after the order of full and final settlement of tax arrears under the Vivad se Vishwas scheme.

The tax department has also set a target of 40% reduction in arrear demand as of April 1, 2023.

Arrear demand is any demand raised by tax department against a taxpayer, which has not been paid by him/her.

The arrear demand, including demand not fallen due as of March 31, 2023, has increased from ₹22.98 akh crore as of April 1, 2022, to ₹24.51 lakh crore as on 1 April 2023.

It must be noted that the government has set a budget target of ₹18.23 lakh crore from direct taxes in financial year 2023-24. Of that target, the government expects ₹9.22 lakh crore from corporate taxes, ₹8.72 lakh crore from income taxes and ₹27,625 crore from other taxes (STT).

Number of pending appeals go up in FY23

The number of appeals related to direct taxes pending was 5.16 lakh at the end of March 31, 2023, which is 20,000 more than 4.96 lakh appeals a year ago. The department has also instructed its officers to dispose of all appeals for which Form 5 has been issued under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme with a week of issue of Form 5

APPOINTMENT

Telecom Secy Rajaraman new IFSCA Chairman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE government has appointed telecom secretary K Rajaraman as the new Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

K Rajaraman will be taking over from Injeti Srinivas, who assumed the responsibility of chairperson of IFSCA on 9 of July 2020.

K Rajaraman is an Indian Administrative Services Officer of 1989 batch, from Tamil Nadu cadre. Rajaraman has held many important positions in the Union Government which include additional secretary in department of economic affairs, and joint secretary in Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, the government of India.

He has also held several key positions in the Government of Tamil Nadu including Managing Director of Chennai Metro Railway Limited and Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Government of Tamil Nadu etc. The IFSCA has been established as a unified regulator with a holistic vision in order to promote ease of doing business in international financial services centres (IFSC). Currently, GIFT City, Gujarat is the has only IFSC that the country has.

EXPRESS READ

Railways to launch special trains connecting heritage sites: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday unveiled a special train that would be run on Heritage routes across the country. The minister here said more such trains would be introduced on heritage routes in the coming months. Vaishnaw said Railways will introduce special 'Heritage special' which would be built using 'steam engines' as the theme. *PTI*

NSDL files draft papers with Sebi for initial public offer

NEW DELHI: National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi for IPO. The initial public offer (IPO) is a complete offer-for-sale (OFS) of over 5.72 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. Under the OFS, IDBI Bank plans to offload 2.22 crore shares, NSE 1.80 crore, Union Bank 56.25 lakh, SBI and HDFC Bank will offload 40 lakh shares each. *PTI*

DEEP DIVE

TRAGEDY OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMISTS

DEEPANSHU MOHAN

A recent book by George F. DeMartino, The Tragic Science: How Economists Cause Harm, starts with a quote:

"The economics profession... is the priesthood of a powerful secular religion... Beneath the surface of their formal economic theorizing, economists are engaged in an act of delivering religious messages. Correctly understood, these messages are seen to be promises of the true path to a salvation in this world-to a new heaven on earth"-Robert Nelson (2001, XX)

Nelson's observation is correct here.

Virtuous economists, including those in the policy-area, often project their work to be 'God's work-aiming for social, economic betterment of all'.

Still, the 'harm' caused because of their practice- the economists' vocation in applied policy, or through a given advice to elected governments, remains both, less emphasized, and better understood, unfortunately, within economics too.

DeMartino's book aims to precisely do that.

It is not an indictment of economics, but of economists who seek to practice its ideas, principles, theories- and the harm they cause to the very society they intend to do good for.

In recent instances of economic policymaking in India, numerous illustrations come to mind of how different experiments with policy innovation and intervention, resulted in harm to millions, all in the warp of 'good intention'.

Demonetization, an ad-hoc implementation of a new tax (GST), Export Bans (on Wheat), Poor Economic Policy Design on Tackling Rising Inflation, Fiscal Choices Made in Budget-After-Budget Aiming to Enhance Capital Expenditure at the Cost of Social-Welfare Expenditure etc. are all few examples of inconsequential policy making India's own growth-developmental story a sad state of affairs.

For economists, who have either advised or justify government actions, often do so from resolving the 'any harm done' moral dilemma by adopting an approach what DeMartino calls as economic "moral geometry" in his book.

Moral geometry represses "the complexity of harm and insulates the profession morally from the harms people suffer because of the policies it advocates".

More often, economists use new classical methods like cost-benefit analysis attempt to resolve deep moral questions—such as what kinds of 'harm' are appropriate to impose on some members of society for the well-being of others—by way of simple math problems.

The use of sophisticated models with abstract assumptions helps provide 'causal evidence' for justifying a given policy decision (say, increasing tariffs to incentivize domestic production for a given good/service or to protect domestic manufacturers), even though the result (over-the-longer-term) may see more damage incause than good (see how, India's over-protective textile industry suffered at the hands of deep-protectionism for decades post-independence).

The Khichdi of Weaponized Economic 'Debate'

More recently, I made a similar argument in context to explaining issues with the 'debate on poverty reduction and estimates' in India.

One set of economists (Panagriya-Bhalla et al) argued one set of facts that poverty rose only "modestly" and has rather declined "persistently" over the last decade. Another group (Dreze-Basole-Mehrotra et al.) contradicted that claim by saying the "methodology" used in saying poverty has reduced is indeed 'questionable'. Given the poor quality of government data, as discussed here, such arguments may yield less clarity, but cause more confusion.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The irreparable harm caused by such weaponized, polarization of policy-discourse (say, in debates on poverty-estimation or the perceived negative impact of higher wages on un/underemployment), where economists on one side fight another- not with the intention of knowing, but rather proving on 'who is right' does little good for the 'pluralist' core of discipline like economics, and its own practice. Consequently, this further creates distrust in the ability of the readers/audience to 'trust' economists and intellectuals in what they say.

On Great India Poverty Debate, 'the experienced reality' shows a different tale for anyone to observe: how an increasing rural and urban poor population still face acute difficulties in being able to access basic amenities, food, nutrition, to make ends meet even now. As Wittgenstein would say, the only 'fact' that matters is of 'lived experience'- not of a 'mathematical axiom'.

'Economist-Induced' Harm

Conscious action, or inaction made in defence of a policy or economic argument also finds mention in DeMartino's explanation of what he calls: 'economist-induced harm'.

Relate this in context to Raghuram Rajan's recent critique of the PLI (Performance Linked Incentive) Scheme in India, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing production, investment and jobs in India.

Rajan, argues in his column, that the boom in India's mobile phone exports might be a sign of concern as the growth is happening on the back of assembly rather than genuine manufacturing within the country.

"One key deficiency of the scheme is that the subsidy is paid only for finishing the phone in India, not on how much value is added by manufacturing in India. This matters! It turns out that very little apart from assembly is done in India, though manufacturers claim they intend to do more in future. So, India still imports much of what goes into the mobile phone, and when we correct for that, it is very hard to maintain that net exports have gone up," argues Rajan.

What this would indicate is a fact that much of the PLI policy, which occupies a major chunk of the government' fiscal spending plan (via subsidies) while reducing social-welfare expenditure, all in the intention to push for 'Make in India' is in fact yielding more 'imports', adding to the nation's current account deficit, while failing to cause any significant domestic value-addition in India's manufacturing growth/production or jobs.

It is pertinent to realize how an ignorance-based economics builds upon the understanding that there is so much we can't know in economics and so little we can control. It nevertheless seeks to apply economic expertise responsibly, in concert with those whom economists seek to serve. Recognizing irreparable ignorance with clear eyes, according to DeMartino, opens the door to promising new thinking about policy formation that can achieve just what it is economists hope to achieve, the promotion of social betterment. Else, we are in a free-fall, anyway!

Deepanshu Mohan is Associate Professor of Economics & Director, Centre for New Economics Studies, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University

ITC's Mangaldeep eyes top spot in agarbatti mkt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN the highly fragmented incense stick market whose size is pegged at ₹10,000 crore, top consumer brand ITC is confident of becoming number one player as it sees increase in demand for premium products.

"Mangaldeep is currently No. 1 in the Dhoop Segment, and No. 2 in the agarbatti segment in the country. The brand has been growing at 2X the industry growth rate. With a thrust on premiumisation of the portfolio, creating strong consumer demand of Mangaldeep driven by digital channels, and robust sales channel plans, the business is confident of achieving market leadership in the incense sticks category," said Gaurav Tayal, chief executive, matches and agarbatti business, ITC Ltd.

Tayal said with daily prayers being a fundamental part of Indian traditional routines, the consumption pattern for agarbatti is quite high across the country with the industry pegged at ₹10,000 crore. With the rise of urbanization and nuclear families, the industry has been seeing steady growth and is expected to continue to strengthen its growth momentum going forward, he said.

The industry is highly fragmented with the top 10 organised players contributing to about 35% of the industry.

While Cycle Pure Agarbatti is said to be the market leader in this space, other notable players are Zed Black, Hem Agarbatti and Patanjali Agarbatti.

Tayal said with aspirations of consumers evolving and the young generation seeking unique and differentiated solutions for their personalized devotion needs, the organized players will be better placed to innovate distinct product propositions, thereby strengthening their salience.

NBCC Inked MoU with Currency Note Press, Nasik

NBCC inked an MOU with Currency Note Press (CNP) under Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), Maharashtra on 23.06.2023 for Planning, Designing and Execution of Upcoming works such as State of Art Museum, Infrastructure development works like Treatment Plants etc. at Currency Note Press (CNP) Nasik. The MoU was signed by Shri Bolewar Babu, CGM, CNP Nasik and Shri Pradeep Sharma, CGM (Engg.) NBCC.

MSME outreach programme

UCO Bank has organized MSME OUTREACH PROGRAMME in Karur on 30/06/2023. The meeting was attended by Mr.G.Jyothish, Zonal Manager, Coimbatore and Mr. Ram Prakash Mishra, SME-Hub Head, Coimbatore, Mr.SMS Sankaralingam, CEO, The Karur Textile Manufacturer Exporters Association, Mr. Anboli. R. Kaliappan, President, Karur Handloom Export Cloth Manufacturers Association and Mr.P.Ashok Shankar, Director, KSHIN Tech, Chief Mentor, Sri Sankara Japanese Language Training & Consultancy. They have addressed the participants about MSME sector and the challenges faced by the industry and the role of Bank in the growth of MSME sector.

Business & Beyond

SAIL clocks best-ever first quarter in production and sales

NEW DELHI: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has achieved record-breaking performance in the first quarter of the financial year 2023-24 (Q1 FY24) in terms of production and sales. The production of hot metal, crude steel, and saleable steel of 5.037 million tonnes (MT), 4.667 MT, and 4.405 MT, respectively, marked the best ever first quarter results. These figures represent a remarkable growth of 7%, 8%, and 8% respectively in comparison to the previous best. Moreover, the company attained its highest-ever sales performance in the first quarter by achieving a sales volume of 3.9 MT. This is a growth of around 24% over CPLY. The company is focused on maximizing capacity utilization and meeting the customer demands.

Mr. Krishna Kumar Thakur appointed Director (HR), BHEL

NEW DELHI: On his appointment as Director on the Board of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Mr. Krishna Kumar Thakur, 49, has assumed charge as Director (Human Resources) of the Public Sector engineering and manufacturing enterprise. Mr. Thakur is a 1998 batch officer of the Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS). He is a Post-Graduate in Literature from Tilka Manjhi University, Bhagalpur and has done his Post-Graduate Diploma in Management with specialisation in Human Resource (PGDM-HR) from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Prior to joining BHEL, Mr. Thakur was heading the HR and Administration function of Central Railway as Chief Personnel Officer. He has 25 years of holistic and hands-on experience in handling HR matters and administration in the Indian Railways as well as other Central PSUs.

Kreon announces strong Q1 financial results, outlines growth plans

Kreon Finnancial Services Limited, a prominent non-banking financial company specializing in student loans, is pleased to announce its impressive financial performance for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24. The company's strong performance underscores its commitment to providing accessible and affordable education financing solutions while maintaining sustainable growth. During Q1 FY24, we have achieved remarkable growth across key financial indicators. Kreon witnessed a substantial increase in revenue, with a 115% rise compared to the same period last year. This remarkable growth reflects the company's effective business strategies and the growing demand for student loans. Kreon remains committed to maintaining a high-quality loan book.

Sindhu, Sen in semifinals of Canada Open

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up contrasting wins to advance to the semifinals of the Canada Open Super 500 badminton tournament. Sindhu stamped her authority over Fang Jie to register her first victory in four meetings with a dominating 21-13 21-7 margin. Sen staved off a spirited fight from Julien Carraggi 21-8 17-21 21-10 in the men's singles quarterfinal.

Two women bridge players from Raibidpura, a village in MP's Khargone district, will compete in Asian Games. **Firoz Mirza** tracks the history of sport at the place which presently has around 250-300 players...

HURRAH BRIDGE

A VILLAGE STORY

Vidya Patel

ONLINE TRAINING

I have been training online since 2019. This has helped us a lot as even the Covid-19 pandemic couldn't stop us from training. As far as the ladies' team is concerned, we train online regularly. Ahmedabad-based coach Vinay Desai has been helping us with the training.

— Kalpana Gurjar, India bridge player

RAIBIDPURA village is around 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, Khargone, in the Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh. From outside, it might look like a typical Indian village with most of its inhabitants being farmers. But it's not. There is an amalgamation of tradition and experimentation. Farmers here are not afraid of experimenting with non-traditional crops such as safed musli, a rare herb from the country which is used in traditional systems of medicine like Ayurveda. Apart from farming, most of the adult males from the village with around 700 houses and a population of nearly 5000 are employed in the government sector. A lot of them are government teachers too. The literacy rate is quite high and the crime rate is almost negligible.

All these virtues can directly or indirectly be attributed to villagers' obsession with bridge, a form of card game — a sport played between two contestants.

Sunday Special

Asian Games reignites hope

Last month when the Bridge Federation of India announced the Indian team for the upcoming Asian Games scheduled in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, the village erupted into rapturous celebration. And why not? Two of their fellow women villagers — Kalpana Gurjar and Vidya Patel — have been selected in the national squad for the quadrennial event. While the duo has been representing the country in national and international events but their selection in the Asian Games is a momentous occasion in the history of the village.

"Bridge has been an integral part of this village for decades. But it has been on the decline as youngsters are shying away from the sport due to varied reasons. Now Kalpana and Vidya's success has the ability to restore the lost connection," Kamal Verma, an assistant teacher from Girls' Middle School in the village, who also plays bridge, told this daily.

Like many bridge players from the place, Verma has been working tirelessly to promote the sport. In his quest to popularise bridge, he has recently met Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Kalpana and Vidya. "We apprised the chief minister of the village's legacy and requested him to promote the sport in the state. We can only try and have been doing that for years. Hopefully, Kalpana and Vidya win medals at the Asian Games to bring a positive change," Verma added.

The beginning

Villagers here have always been inclined towards card games. In the late 50s and early 60s, they, most of whom are farmers, used to play card games during their leisure hours. This association with card games led to their initiation into bridge, the sport, in around 1965 when Mohammed Zia Khan, an assistant veterinarian, got transferred to the village. An avid bridge player, Khan used to play the card game at Ranjit Club in Barwani before he shifted to Raibidpura.

"On his arrival, he saw villagers, especially the elderly playing card games in traditional formats in hotels, village squares, and other marketplaces. Given their interest, he gradually convinced them to switch to bridge. He used to sit with them for hours playing bridge. In two years, he trained around 8-10 players. These players along with Khan sir used to play tournaments held at Ranjit Club. On many occasions, these villagers even defeated Khan sir and other professionals. By the 80s, the village had around 25-30 players," reminisced Verma.

The decline & slow rise

However, once Khan left the village, the interest in bridge started to dwindle. Gradually, villagers started drifting away from the sport. "The decline began in the early 80s and continued for some years before one Champalal Seth, who owned a garment shop in the village, gave a new lease of life to the sport. The legend has it that Sethji was suffering from acute shoulder pain. In his bid to focus away from the writhing pain, he started playing bridge in the evening in front of his shop. Usually, during that time the footfall is less. This attracted others and once again the village saw people embracing bridge. This continued till the late 90s when Sethji passed away. His demise once again served a big jolt to the development and promotion of the sport in the village," informed Verma.

Getting break through ads

Fortunately, the sport survived the test of time as a few villagers continued playing it even when a majority of them decided otherwise. "In 2012, we saw an advertisement in vernacular dailies about the proposed open bridge tournament at Yeshwant Club in Indore. We wrote to the club secretary expressing our desire to play in the tournament. I along with five others reached there. Villagers in traditional attire playing bridge caught everybody's attention there as bridge is considered an elite sport. One of the participants, Manoj Nair, who hails from Bengaluru, wrote about us making the village a talking point among the fraternity. I can safely say that led to the revival of the sport in the village."

Bill & Melinda Gates connect

The news reached Amresh Deshpande, who promotes the bridge by visiting schools in urban and rural India. Deshpande visited the village in 2012 for the first time. The visit took him by surprise and he decided to reinvigorate villagers' interest in the bridge. His blog drew the attention of senior bridge players including Arun Jain. They collected money to start a club to promote the sport in the village.

"Arun Jain donated Rs 60,000. The blog also helped in landing a donation worth $1000 from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The collection generated was enough to start the club. We rented a room in the village. Eight tables were bought. This time, we decided to connect school children with the sport and targeted class 6 and 7 students. The efforts paid dividends as we got a new generation of players which also includes Kalpana and Vidya. Later, the village panchayat gave us a room where the club named Kisan Bridge Club is being run," said Verma.

GenNext and legacy

Kalpana's father Balram Verma is a bridge player. When bridge was introduced in Raibidpura schools, Kalpana was among the first few to join the programme. A BSc graduate in Chemistry, Kalpana moved to Ahmedabad after finishing school just to stay connected with the game. "Parimal Vahalia sir asked us to move to Ahmedabad for pursuing BSc as he doesn't want us to give up bridge. Before moving to Ahmedabad, I had attended summer coaching camps in the city and Nashik. So a few of my schoolmates moved to Gujarat where we pursued graduation as well as bridge," Kalpana told this daily.

Kalpana along with Vidya participated in the Asian Games trials and got selected in the team. She along with other selected players will also represent India at the World Bridge Team Championships in Morocco from August 20 to September 2. "My father is a teacher but he plays bridge which motivated me to take up the sport. Vidya's father Hariram Patel is a farmer. She took up the sport watching her uncle, who is also a bridge player. Around 250-300 villagers play bridge here and out of them 15-20 are teachers. This amazes everyone as they are of the opinion that bridge is only played by the rich and elite," signed off Kalpana.

Come September, the entire village will be following the fortunes of Kalpana and Vidya. A medal will give them hope and reason to pursue the sport with zest. And ensure the legacy of Raibidpura is kept alive.

(Clockwise) Vidya Patel and Kalpana Gurjar. The Bridge Kisan Club in Raibidpura. Villagers playing bridge at the club. | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian Ladies bridge team scheduled to compete at the Asian Games

BRIDGE TAUGHT US TO TAKE RISK

In bridge, there is a high chance of getting success if you do not refrain from taking risk. I think that ability to take risk has helped the villagers in other aspects of life including farming where they have navigated into growing non-traditional crops. Besides, it has also developed a bond among the villagers, which I suppose led to a peaceful society with a low crime rate — Kamal Verma, school teacher and bridge player

India squad

Open teams: Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Sumit Mukherjee, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare **Reserve 1:** Kaustabh Bendre and Sayantan Kushari; **Coach:** Mr Joyjit Sensarma

Mixed Team: Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, Himani Khandelwal, Rajeev Khandelwal, Marianne Karmarkar and Sandeep Karmarkar **Reserve 1:** Hema Deora and Rana Roy; **Coach:** Vinay Desai

Ladies Team: Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Alka Kshirsagar, Bharti Dey, Kalpana Gurjar and Vidya Patel **Reserve 1:** Richa Shriram and Meenal Thakur; **Coach:** Anal Shah

OCA extension not enough for IOA

IOA TO MEET OCA OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER EXTENSION?

CHENNAI: As reported by this newspaper, the Olympic Council of Asia has maintained that Indian Olympic Association will have till July 22-23 to send names for wrestling team. This was confirmed by IOA on Thursday. The IOA president, PT Usha, told this newspaper before leaving that she sent the OCA a request for further extension (until August 5) and would meet the officials to explain their position. She along with IOA senior vice president Ajay Patel and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey are in Bangkok for the OCA elections. It is learnt that she would have further discussions on Sunday. ENS

Sai Kishore seals thriller for South

GOMESH S @Chennai

IN what was the most thrilling match of the ongoing Duleep Trophy, R Sai Kishore held his nerve to take South Zone home against North Zone at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. With the two-wicket win, South entered their second consecutive final where they would be up against West Zone, who qualified based on first innings lead versus Central.

Coming into bat at 191/6, Sai Kishore saw Washington Sundar and KV Sasikanth get out cheaply. And having almost seen the bitter end of the result in the first innings — Sai Kishore was stumped off Jayant Yadav's bowling as he tried to go for a big shot to secure the lead — where South trailed by three runs, the Tamil Nadu all-rounder knew exactly what to do. Or rather what not to do. "What happened in the first innings, my biggest learning was to not step out. Because you lose a lot of shape and when you are under pressure in such situations you might not have the necessary clarity when you step out and hit. That was the learning. I tried not to step out today and it worked," Sai Kishore told this daily.

After guiding the team home, an elated Sai Kishore celebrated with Vyshak Vijaykumar for company. From missing out on the chance to gain a first innings lead to take South to the final, he feels "it was meant to be". When the flower is bloomed only then the bee comes to it. I prepared very well with my batting, I was mentally there in the zone. When Vyshak came into bat, that is what I told him. Life has given me another opportunity to win this match."

Sai Kishore's steely nerve comes as no surprise at all. After all, he has been there in similar situations in the past where things did not go his way, including the Ranji Trophy game against Andhra last season where TN lost by eight runs. "It definitely helps. Every time you go out and you don't win, that is a very good opportunity to learn. Andhra game was one such. You take things and move forward. Even today, I had a lot of learning to take. Next time when I am in a similar situation, I'll try and handle it in a much better way."

For someone who has been a vital cog in his state — he even led them in few games last year — Sai Kishore reiterates the understanding he has developed about his red-ball game since the 2022-23 season. "I have become much more aware about red-ball cricket, on what my bowling is. You learn a lot about yourself. Have developed one or two variations with angles to deviate the ball both ways.. It is a very subtle difference, but I am getting better at it. Also, I have been blessed to have a captain like Hanuma Vihari. He takes care of everything. All I have to do is show up and bowl. All those things came together for me today," he signed off.

Brief scores: North Zone 198 & 211 **lost to** South Zone 195 & 219/8 in 82 ovs (Mayank 54, Vihari 43, Sai Kishore 15 n.o.); West 220 & 297 **drew** Central 128 & 128/4 in 35 ovs (Rinku 40).

On rainy day, Alcaraz & Sabalenka in last 16

AGENCIES @London

CARLOS Alcaraz was forced to dig deep on Saturday to see off the challenge of Nicolas Jarry and reach the last 16 at Wimbledon.

The Spanish top seed, seen as the man most likely to end Novak Djokovic's long reign at the All England Club, was off-colour but still won 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 7-5. A single break in the first set was enough for Alcaraz to edge ahead but he faltered in the second, slipping 4-1 behind. The US Open champion clawed his way back.

World number two Aryna Sabalenka reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the second time on Saturday with a straight-sets win over Russia's Anna Blinkova. Sabalenka won 6-2, 6-3 on the back of 30 winners, including nine aces under the Court One roof. **Select results: Men: Rd 3:** Novak Djokovic (SRB x2; Friday) bt Stan Wawrinka (SUI) 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5); Carlos Alcaraz (ESP x1) bt Nicolas Jarry (CHI x25) 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 7-5; Daniil Medvedev (x3) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x5) bt Laslo Djere (SRB) 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. **Women: Rd 3**: Iga Swiatek (POL x1) bt Petra Martic (CRO x30) 6-2, 7-5; Aryna Sabalenka bt Anna Blinkova (6-2, 6-3).

DID YOU KNOW?

WIMBLEDON TRIVIA

Middle Sunday – Prior to becoming a regular scheduled day, ***play took place on Middle Sunday on four occasions : in 1991, 1997, 2004, 2016.***

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates beating Chile's Nicolas Jarry | AFP

Shot-putter Karanveer out of Asian C'ships

ENS/AGENCIES @Chennai

IN another big embarrassment for Indian athletics, an athlete had to be dropped from the squad a day before departure for the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok. As has been the trend in the last 18-20 months, top athlete Karanveer Singh tested positive for a banned substance.

Though the details of the test are still awaited, the Athletics Federation of India has dropped shot-putter Karanveer from the list of participants. AFI president Adille Sumariwalla, who is attending a meeting at Bangkok, did confirm of the development but said he too is waiting for more details.

With his withdrawal from the team, Tajinder Pal Singh Toor will be the lone shot putter for India at the championships.

Earlier, Karanveer had won a bronze in the Federation Cup in May with a 19.05m throw. The 25-year-old was second behind Tajinderpal in the National Inter-State Championships in June with an effort of 19.78m. He is currently sixth among Asians in the season's top list.

This is not the first time that top athlete has tested positive. Though it is not clear if his sample was collected by National Anti-Doping Agency or Athletics Integrity Unit, but in the last couple of years national and international medalists like sprinter MR Poovamma, javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, Dutee Chand, Aishwarya B have been testing positive.

In 2022, there have been at least 123 positive cases of doping which is quite high and collection crossed 4000 for the first time since 2019. India has figure in top three on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Adverse Analytical Finding and Anti-Doping Rule violation lists recently.

EXPRESS READ

IND-W return to action in B'desh in T20Is

MIRPUR: The Indian women's cricket team will be expecting the fresh faces to grab the opportunity with both hands and finishers to flourish in the three-match T20 series against Bangladesh beginning here on Sunday, its first international assignment in four months. The T20 series will be followed by three ODIs beginning July 16.

Sheikh Talal keeps OCA helm in Al Sabah family

BANGKOK: Sheik Talal Fahad Al-Sabah will replace his suspended brother Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah as president of the Olympic Council of Asia after winning an election by four votes. The OCA issued a statement saying the outcome 'keeps the leadership of the Kuwait-based OCA in the House of the Al Sabah family.'

Aditi makes cut despite quadruple bogey

PEBBLE BEACH: Aditi Ashok dropped a disastrous quadruple bogey in the middle of the second round but still managed to make the cut at the U.S. Women's Open. Starting the day at T-39, she slipped slightly to T-42 and was 4-over through 36 holes with rounds of 74-74. Aditi seemed to have done fine except for the Par-4 eighth hole.

Asiad exposure will propel youngsters to Paris '24: Chokshi

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

The Swimming Federation of India on Saturday announced the 23-member squad for the upcoming Asian Games. For the first time since 2006, nine women players will represent India in the event.

"We are extremely happy that we have been able to have many swimmers qualify," Monal Chokshi, General Secretary of the SFI, told this daily. Further adding, "The team is almost double what was participating in 2018. That 11 swimmers at that time. We have 21 swimmers and out of that also, we have nine girls, which is also our first since 2006. We are delighted that all the swimmers are progressing and they achieved the qualification benchmark."

The women's contingent will include Tokyo Olympian Maana Patel along with Linyesha AK, who bagged the best female swimmer at the Senior National Aquatic Championship. Chokshi believes that exposure to events like Asian Games is necessary for the development of the young contingent. "Unless and until they get the international exposure, you cannot expect the medals from this younger group. This developmental exposure will propel them towards the 2024 Paris and 28 Los Angeles Olympics," the SFI office-bearer added.

Tokyo Olympian Maana Patel

The recently concluded National Championship in Hyderabad saw young swimmers across categories broke 18 national records. Chokshi is happy with the increasing depth of the sport in India but firmly believes there is room for improvement in the rise in podium finishes. "Our base in India, the top in the younger junior and the senior categories are certainly improving, but we still need to increase the base in terms of grassroots participation to target long-term Olympic podium finishes. I think we need to increase the base at the grassroots level five times more than what we have at present," he concluded.

The aim to bring India under one law goes back to the colonial era when the Lex Loci Report of October 1840 was published. This report sought to achieve consistency by codifying many laws in the country. However, the religious personal laws of many communities were left out. Uniform Civil Code was next brought up in 1946

DIVERGENCE BETWEEN VARIOUS PERSONAL LAWS

MARRIAGE

The age requirement for brides and bridegrooms governed by Hindu, Christian and Parsi laws is 18 and 21 years, respectively. However, under Islamic law, parties can marry once they reach the age of puberty, which is 15 years. A marriage governed by Hindu, Christian, and Parsi laws will not be considered valid if either party has a living spouse at the time of marriage. The term Hindu in the law includes Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains.

ADOPTION

Both Hindu males and females can adopt. But adoption is not recognised under the personal laws of Muslims, Christians and Parsis, so they take the guardianship route through the Guardians and Wards Act.

GUARDIANSHIP/ CUSTODY

Under Hindu law, the father is the guardian in the case of a boy or an unmarried girl. However, if the minor has not completed the age of five years, the mother is the natural guardian. Under Islamic law, the father alone is the natural guardian. In the absence of the father, his executor can act as a legal guardian. Thereafter, the paternal grandfather and his executor can act as the guardian.

INHERITANCE

A Hindu woman has the same rights to her deceased parents' property as a Hindu male. However, the father is not entitled to any share in his son's property during the lifetime of his son's wife, mother and children. Inheritance rights of a married daughter are identical to those of an unmarried one. There is no gender bias in inheritance.

Under Muhammadan law, ancestral and self-acquired property fall in the same basket. A Muslim woman governed by the Muslim Personal Law is entitled to receive 1/8th share of her husband's property if the couple have children; else, she receives 1/4th. When parents of Muslim women die, daughters become rightful legal heirs to their estate. However, the share of a female heir is half that of male heirs.

Christians, Parsis and Jews are governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The share of a Christian woman depends on the identity of the other relatives of the deceased. If the deceased has left children, his widow receives one-third of his estate, while the rest goes to the children. If the heirs are relatives other than children, she receives half of the estate, and the remainder goes to the other relatives of the deceased. If there are neither children nor other relatives, she receives the entire property.

A Parsi widow is entitled to receive an equal share as her children, besides the deceased's parents who receive half of the child's share, in her husband's estate. In the absence of parents, the property is distributed between the Parsi woman and her children so that the widow and each child receive equal shares in the deceased's estate.

DIVORCE

Under Hindu, Christian and Parsi laws, both men and women can file for divorce on similar grounds, such as adultery, cruelty, desertion, mental disorder, conversion, communicable disease, renunciation from the world and presumption of death. The Parsi law has a jury system to hear divorce cases.

However, a Muslim husband can seek the dissolution of marriage by pronouncing *talaq*. *Talaq* is a form of divorce available only to the husband, by which he can sever ties without the intervention of any court or seeking prior approval from the wife.

The first form of divorce available to a Muslim wife is called *Khula*, which she can purchase from her husband. Compensation is paid by the wife to the husband from her property to dissolve the marriage. The second is *Ila*, which means an oath. In legal terms, it refers to when a husband takes an oath that he will not have sexual intercourse with his wife for four months or more. After four months, if the husband is deemed to have observed the oath, the marriage stands dissolved. The third is *Zihar*. It is available when the husband compares his wife with his female relations who are in the prohibited degree of relationship, like his mother. Finally, a divorce can be initiated by the wife if the husband accuses her of adultery.

UNDERSTANDING UCC RUMBLE

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

SOUMYADIP SINHA

PREETHA NAIR AND SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

AMID speculation that a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill could be introduced as early as the monsoon session of Parliament, it has suddenly become a red hot political issue occupying the nation's mindspace. Enacting a common law that will apply to all religious communities has been an article of faith for the ruling BJP government. But its prioritisation months before the general elections has made it exceptionally emotive. At present, various aspects of life like marriage, inheritance, succession, adoption and guardianship of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Parsis are governed by their own personal laws. However, under Islamic law, polygamy is permitted. The USP of a good UCC would be to ensure gender justice across the board without trampling on the feet of people of different faiths. But that is easier said than done as it would require compromises from all sides. "It's neither necessary nor desirable at this stage," was how the 21st Law Commission in 2018 sought to put a lid on it while making a few interesting suggestions.

However, the first indication of the Centre's thought process came on June 14 when the 22nd Law Commission sought to dial up the UCC by seeking the opinion of all stakeholders. A week later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly wondered, "how can a nation be run on two laws?" An informal group of ministers is now examining the matter.

Directive principles vs fundamental rights

The UCC finds mention in Article 44 of the Constitution. It is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy. "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India," Article 44 states. However, directive principles are not enforceable in court until they are made into law; they act as a guide for policy formulation. In contrast, fundamental rights are enforceable. Religious freedom to all citizens is part of fundamental rights.

The Goa model

Goa is the only state that has a UCC. People of all communities in the state are bound by the 154-year-old Portuguese civil code since its annexation in 1961. But it has its downside. For example, one of its provisions allows a Hindu husband to take a second wife in the absence of an issue if the wife has attained the age of 25, and also if she has attained the age of 30 without having a son. This is completely incompatible with the Hindu Marriage Act.

Recommendations of the 21st Law Commission

In 2018, the 21st Law Commission prepared a working paper, 'Reform of Family Law', after extensive discussions with various stakeholders. While stating that a UCC was neither necessary nor desirable at this stage, it observed that "most countries are now moving towards recognition of difference, and the mere existence of difference does not imply discrimination but is indicative of a robust democracy."

In the absence of any consensus on a UCC, the Commission felt that the best way forward could be to preserve the diversity of personal laws but ensure that they do not contradict fundamental rights. It also recommended codifying the Muslim law on inheritance and succession and bringing in uniform succession provisions for Shias and Sunnis. "Succession and inheritance should be based on proximity to the deceased rather than a preference to male agnates," it recommended. A Muslim widow, even if childless, should inherit the property of the deceased as a Class I heir," it added.

The Commission further observed that the Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) system should be scrapped as it was being utilised only for tax evasion. HUF provides tax exemptions to Hindus as compared to members of other religions who are governed by the Indian Succession Act. The report also recommended that "no-fault divorce" must be introduced in all personal laws and property acquired after marriage be divided between the two parties if the union comes to an end.

Why are tribals opposing it

Several tribal communities, including those in the Northeast have opposed the proposed UCC as they fear it will threaten their identity and autonomy. While tribal communities are mostly governed by their customary laws in matters of marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance, land and property, the Constitution also protects the local customs of tribes in certain states.

Sikh concern

Though Hindu laws encompass Sikhs as well, they also have the option of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909. The Act serves as a legal validation for Sikh matrimonial ceremonies (Anand Karaj). Although it has no provision for divorce and couples therefore seek to be governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 several Sikh outfits are opposing the UCC to preserve the Anand Marriage Act.

Why are the Parsis upset

The Parsis have special rules for intestate under the Indian Succession Act, 1925. They also follow the Parsi marriage and the divorce Act, 1936. The community cannot legally adopt. If a woman marries outside the community, then she will be an outcast. The community is apprehensive that the UCC will take away the minority rights of the Parsis.

WHY CHARGING INFRA IS THE PAIN POINT IN MOBILITY TRANSITION

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

THE Centre has set an ambitious target to electrify 70% of all commercial vehicles, 30% of private cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales by 2030. This in absolute numbers works out to 8 crore electric vehicles (EVs) on the road. To support such a surge, India will need a total of 39 lakh public and semi-public charging stations at a ratio of 1 station per 20 vehicles. But look at the current ratio, which is approximately 1 charging station per 135 EVs. It is way behind the global ratio of 1 charging station per 6 to 20 EVs.

Govt subsidy

To address the situation, the Union government and individual states are taking several measures to encourage private players to expand the charging network and make the business economically viable for charge point operators. The latest to bring in policy reforms to accelerate EV adoption and charging infra is the Tamil Nadu government. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission, in its order dated June 30, revised rates for EV charging stations (both high tension and low tension traffic) per kWh to ₹6, ₹7.50 and ₹9, depending on peak and off-peak hours.

The peak hour (6 am to 9 am and 6 pm to 10 pm) rate has been reduced to ₹9 per kWh from ₹12 per kWh. Also, fixed charges have been reduced to ₹75 per kW from ₹300 (for 51–112 kW connections) per month and ₹138 (for above 112 kW) per month. For 0–50 kW connections, it will be ₹25 per kW (down from ₹100). It's more or less similar to other e-mobility frontrunning states. In Kerala, 25% equipment subsidy has been provided for the first 100 DC fast charging stations in the private sector.

Charging time

A typical DC fast charger takes about 1 to 2 hours to fully charge. Currently, there is no cap on charge point operators on how much they should charge. On an average, the consumer is charged ₹20 per kW unit. A Tata Nexon car takes little over 25 kW units of power for full charge, which translates to ₹500-600 for a full charge.

Uttar Pradesh mismatch

K P Karthikeyan, CEO and co-founder of Zeon Electric Pvt. Ltd, said the revision has infused life into the sector that was earlier unviable. As per official data available with Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Maharashtra with 2,365 charging stations is leading the way in supporting EVs. Delhi ranks second with 1,619 charging stations, while Karnataka comes third with 736 and Tamil Nadu has 457. When it comes to EVs registration, Uttar Pradesh is well ahead of any other state with over 5 lakh, but has only 449 charging stations, which is miniscule. In Karnataka, an additional 1,169 stations are planned in the next six months.

Delhi plan

While some regions are aggressively pursuing EV adoption, others are lagging, creating a huge geographical divide. There are even states where the number of charging stations are in single digit. On the other hand, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has prepared a comprehensive EV Charging and Swapping Infrastructure Action Plan for deployment of 18,000 public EV charging points across Delhi within the next three years.

Under the single window facility, a total of 1,249 charging points (252 private and 997 semi-public) have been installed at 498 locations across Delhi. GNCTD is providing ₹6,000 per charging point subsidy to slow chargers (LEVAC and Type 1 AC001 chargers) managed by Discoms operating in Delhi. Besides, 100 concessional land packages are being provided to the charge point operators to set up 896 charge points. The action plan includes setting up 103 battery swapping stations, officials in Delhi said.

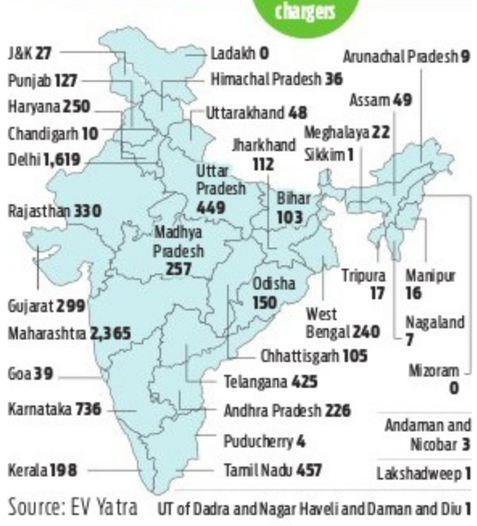
Charging at homes, work places

Martin Scherfler, co-founder, Auroville Consulting told *TNIE* the government must encourage consumers to charge during daytime (solar energy generation hours) with attractive tariffs like in the case of Tamil Nadu. "Most of the charging will happen at homes (on domestic tariff) during night time. Charging during solar hours will help with grid-integration of renewable energy, not to forget that solar is the cheapest form of energy. Offices can also play a big role in providing charging stations to employees. I know companies that provide free charging at offices as an employee incentive," Scherfler said.

Regulatory potholes

On hurdles, Harsh Verma, business development executive and assistant project manager, VerdeMobility Pvt Ltd, said although the Centre and state governments brought in policies providing subsidies for setting up charging stations, the growth rate has not met targets because of several on-the-ground problems. "There has to be a single window clearance mechanism. For instance, in Delhi where we are installing chargers, the Discom helps us in getting approval from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi but after that there are multiple NOCs we have to obtain from different departments, which is very tedious. Also, residents welfare associations are not welcoming proposals to install the chargers on their premises. There is less awareness on the utility."

In Kerala, finding suitable land for charging stations is a pain. Besides, the charging rate and machine quality are unregulated.



Source: EV Yatra

IIT-M, ARAI to develop prototype high power charger

INTERVIEW

KARTHICK ATHMANATHAN, PROFESSOR

IIT-M, in association with Automotive Research Association of India, is working on advanced technologies to expedite EV charging. **Karthick Athmanathan**, Professor of Practice and Coordinator of an Interdisciplinary Dual Degree Master's Program on Electric Vehicles, IIT-M talks to **S V Krishna Chaitanya** on the ongoing research and roll out plans. He was senior VP at Ashok Leyland before taking a sabbatical. Excerpts:

● Please tell us about the exciting research on EV charging that is currently underway at IIT Madras.

IIT Madras has been part of the national panel that evolved interoperable fast charging standards for India. In conductive charging you have what is called high amperage charging. If you look at buses which are running today, their most ambitious power is about 130 amps to 200 amps. Now, we are working on a project which will take it up to 600 amps. Once this solution is rolled out, commercial buses and trucks can be charged in double quick time. For instance, right now the best a bus is getting charged is 240 kW with two guns, which few OEMs like Ashok Leyland do, but with our advanced fast charger it will be able to operate at about 500 kW without reducing safety or life of the battery.

● When can we expect this technology to be rolled out?

In 18 to 20 months, validated prototypes would have been demonstrated between ARAI and IIT Madras. Of course, it's a new development, so there may be few slip ups. The next six months will be for prototype testing.

● Any work undertaken for developing wireless charging?

The Centre for Excellence for Zero Emission Trucking at IIT Madras will be working on wireless charging, which is just taking off globally. It comes in two phases, one is static wireless charging, which is essentially induction charging when the vehicle is stationary. This has fairly evolved globally but not commercialised yet.

The other one is called dynamic wireless charging where induction chargers are embedded into the road and the vehicles get charged when they drive over them. Since, these projects need funding, partners etc., it will take time.

They are in the planning and strategising stage, but these will be India centric technologies developed with domestic supply chains. In this regard, IIT Madras and ARAI signed a strategic letter of intent.

● Are the industry and OEMs enabled for these changes?

We are working closely with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). Right now, the industry is enabled for 600 amps high power chargers. Some changes need to be done to the equipment, but it is slightly less challenging for the OEMs compared to wireless charging.